The invasion of the baby-faced clones page 21

STARTING TOMORROW IN THE SATURDAY TIMES **Anyone Can Cook** Frances Bissell on scrambled eggs



*TIMES

When journalists go to war media times pages 38-41 FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS token page 26 Nato clears highway in the sky to get US prisoners out of Serbia

Cypriot leader flies out on mercy mission

By Michael Evans, Anna Blundy in moscow and Michael Theodoulou in nicosia

NATO cleared a "safe corridor" through its bombardment last night in the hope that the Cypriot mission to Belgrade would win the release of the three captured American

At the same time, President Yeltsin announced in Moscow that he was working on a new peace initiative to end the Kosovo crisis, and Belgrade dairned that peace had been restored to the province.

The claim was dismissed by Nato, which underlined its determinadon to maintain the bombing campaign by announcing that Yugoslav televi-sion and radio stations were be targeted to try and stop the flow of propaganda. The proposed mission to re-

lease the three American soldiers went ahead after Spyros Kyprianou, Speaker of the

ON OTHER PAGES

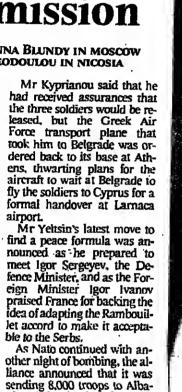
Balkans war. Simon Jenkins. Leading article.

Cypriot Parliament, was guaranieed safe passage for his flight to Belgrade in spite of the cononuing bombing sor-ties over Yugoslavia.

The Pentagon promised him an "air corridor". but William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, said there would be no halt in the airstrikes through-' 5 out the day. "We've deconflicted the airspace so they can go," Kenneth Bacon, the Peniagon spokesman said before Mr Kyprianou flew from Ath-

> Mr Kyprianou, a former President of Cyprus, hopes to see President Milosevic today. but there were confusing reports over whether the Yugo-Slav leader had any intendon of releasing the Americans. The most extreme poliocians

> in Belgrade said they would be kept in custody and charged with terrorism.



deny that they intended to send ground forces into Kosovo unless there was a peace Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, said: "What the international community is not prepared to do at this moment is to wage war on Serbian territory. That is not our objective is only

to weaken Milosevic's regime

nia to help with the refugee cri-

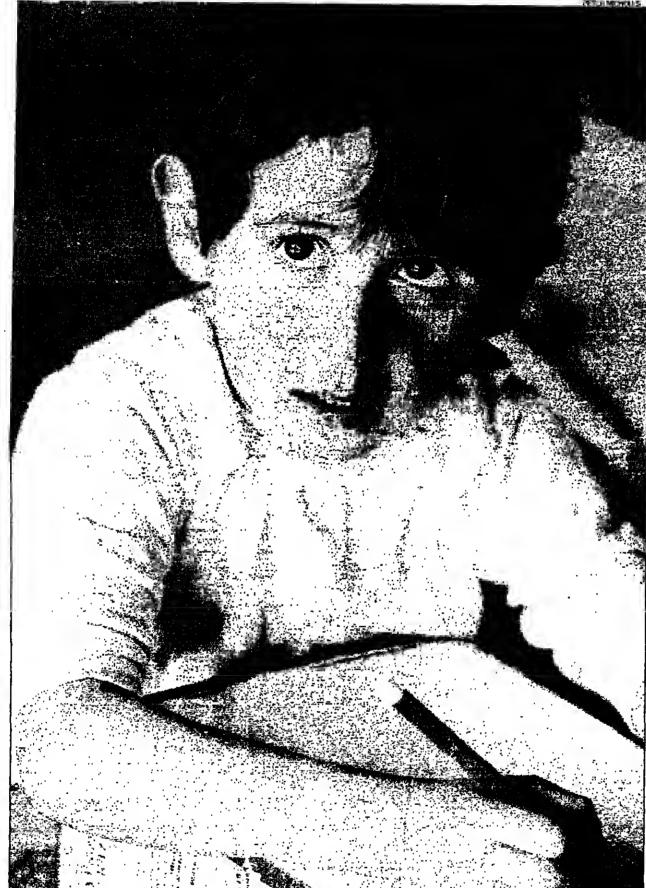
sis, but officials continued to

ble to the Serbs.

and weaken his military capac-As if in anocipation of a Nato ground offensive. Yugoslav forces began laying mines along the border with Albania and there were reports that tanks and guns were also being moved up to the fronder. Yugoslav troops were also seen digging in to form defensive positions close to the bor-

European Union foreign ministers, meeting in Luxembourg, declared that there was no alternative to the use of force to compel Belgrade to meet the demands set by the al-

"The EU will not accept the success of a policy of deportanon and destruction of a peo-Continued on page 5, col 1



Jehona Aliu is an old hand at the Brazde refugee camp, cheering other children who have lost their parents

TV & RADIO50, 51 WEATHER. CROSSWORDS26, 52 LETTERS .. OBITUARIES25 SIMON JENKINS.....22 ARTS CHESS & BRIDGE47 COURT & SOCIAL24 LAW REPORT.....42

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Armchair punters' weekend bonanza

By Michael Horsnell and Susie Steiner

THE nation's sofas are set to groan under the heavy weight of the male population this weekend as an unprecedented number of top sporting compe-

noons coincide. Sporting anoraks could be trapped in a remote-control quandry as they frantically lick from the Grand National to the FA and Scottish Cup semi-finals and on to the Brazilian Grand Prix. As if that weren't enough, they are to be further torn by golf, rugby,

cricket and boxing. On a weekend when everyone will miss out on something through sheer lack of small screens, one party is rub-bing its hands with glee. Bookmakers expect to take a record \$100 million in bets - dwarfing Naoonal Lottery sales which average a mere £60 mil-

lion each Saturday.
The Grand Nacional will command the lion's share of wagers, attracting an estimated £70 million. But Sean Boyce, spokesman for Ladbrokes, said: "This year the sporting constellation has come into alignment for us at exactly the right time. I suppose you could describe it as a kind of punting supernova."

Both Ladbrokes and William Hill will be opening their shops for extra hours and Hill's spokesman Graham Sharpe said: "If you can't find a sporting event to bet on this weekend you never will. If you aren't moved by the opportunioes, then stick to the Lottery be-

cause you have no soul." The Grand National at Aintree will compete for the nation's attention against France vs Scotland in the Five Naoons Rugby at Paris. The US Masters in Augusta

will vie for airtime against Prince Nascem's fight with Paul Ingle, while the Celoc v Dundee Scottish FA Cup semifinal kicks off.

Sunday will be more hectic still. Football leads the field with the FA Cup semi-final between Manchester United and



What odds will you give on my husband not moving from the television all weekend?

Arsenal, followed by Newcastle v Spurs. But both will clash with England's one-day cricket match against India.

Later, England plays Wales at Wembly in the Five Nations Rugby tournament, risking a clash with the Brazilian Grand Prix which kicks off at 6pm. Choosing the grand prix, however, means forgoing the other Scomsh FA Cup semi-final between St Johnstone and

Or digging the garden.

Punters failed, page 15 Sport, pages 45-52

Banks put savers first after rate cut

By Alasdair Murray and Susan Emmett

HOMEOWNERS have been left in the dark as to whether they will enjoy another reduction in their mortgage pay-ments after big lenders failed to follow the Bank of England in cutting interest rates yesterday.

The Bank reduced rates by a quarter point to 5.25 per cent. But banks and building societies said they would not cut their mortgage rates immediately because they needed to consider the needs of Britain's 30 million savers as well as the 10 million homeowners.

While homeowners have enjoyed a sharp fall in mortgage costs, savers - especially pensioners - have seen their income plummet, and many instant access accounts pay rates that are lower than inflation.

The only change in mort-gage rates came from Virgin Direct, which announced an immediate cut on its One account rate to 6.45 per cent. But it left the rates on its savings account at 5.75 per cent.

The City, which believes that the Bank has just about finished its cutting spree, gave yesterday's reduction only a muted welcome. The FISE 100 index of leading shares ended this week's record breaking run to close down 35.3 at 6437.9. The pound, however, strengthened on optimism that the British economy is heading for a "soft landing".

Industry and the unions continued to plead for dramaticallower rates, insisting that the Bank had not done enough to help the manufacturing

Dr Ian Peters, deputy-director general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "The cut is helpful, but insufficient to put the economy firmly back on track for recovery Manufacturing industry in particular will give a cautious welcome to this cautious cut and seek for the bank of go further at its May meeting."

Double boost, page 27

Jehona is five. She turned her back for a moment. Her family vanished

FROM STEPHEN FARRELL AT BRAZDE CAMP

ONE girl sits alone, unclaimed, in the lost children tent established by Briosh soldiers at the vast Brazde refugee camp. Forced from her home in Ferizaj and herded on a train to the border by Serbian forces, Jehona Aliu, five, was separated from her family when she disappeared behind a tree to relieve herself. When she emerged, her mother, two sisters, and two brothers were nowhere to be seen.

For three days, Jehona has sat at Brazde. She has no idea where, or even in which counmy, her family are, and aid agencies are equally in the dark. Her cheerfulness and courage, however, have endeared her to the soldiers trying to bring order to this shift-

ing mass of humanity. dren base to help those who become confused in the rows and rows of identical white tents. and have reunited more than 40 with their parents. But not Jehona, who now comforts the newer arrivals as she sits on a makeshift bed drawing felt-tip pictures of her parents.

She appears oblivious to the noise of trucks and helicopters delivering supplies around her. Wearing a white T-shirt. blue trousers and white Barbie sandals, she seems happy surrounded by fluffy ele-

phants and centipedes.
"My dad told us 'Go, go, there are bombs, you are go-ing to be killed and sent us away," she said through an interpreter. "I was with my mummy, brothers and sisters on the train. I wanted to go to the toilet and I went behind the trees because I did not want people to see me with my clothes off. When I went back I didn't find my mother. Some girl put me in a car and I do not know how I got here."

She smiles and says she likes the Briosh soldiers because they give her chocolates. fruit juice, cans of food and clothes. They, too, are full of er children come here she walks over, offers them sweets and says 'Don't cry, I'm sad too because I've lost my parents, but I'm not crying," said Captain Bill Soper."I would do anything to trace Jehona's par-ents. She's as bright as a hutton, has been able to give us all their names and even her home relephone number. We



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Hague's aide puts truckers in a spin

WILLIAM HAGUE made a pre-emptive strike in the Newark by-election campaign yesterday but had to share star billing with the Tories' first woman communications chief. Amanda Platell, the former Fleet Street Editor, appeared at Mr Hague's side in public for the first time since her surprise appointment as head of news and media.

The by-election, to be held next month, follows the conviction of the Labour MP Fiona Jones for falsifying her elecrion expenses declaration. She was expelled from the House of Commons, leading to a by-election the Tories have to win it Mr Hague is to avoid another weller of speculation about his leadership of the Conserva-

First on the agenda for the four-hour visit was a delega-tion of road hauliers objecting to the 10 per cent increase in diesel duty. Miss Platell. 41. described as Mr Hague's best photo-opportunity in the headlines that accompanied her appointment, was an instant hit.
"Who are you? Are you Mr Hague's secretary?" one of the truckers asked. Before Miss Platell could flash one of her well-honed smiles, another driver hasfily intervened, "No. it's the woman who was in the papers, That spin-doctor," A few moments later Miss

Plaiell had secured the prom-



Andrew Pierce, back at The Times after a short absence and back on the campaign trail, joined William Hague as the Tory leader stole a march on the other parties

ise, at least from the assembled overalls, that that they would be voting Conservative in the by-election. "Pity you're not standing," one added for good measure.

From there it was on to a charity-run village playgroup threatened by the minimum wage. The running costs of the Second Calverton Pre-School Playgroup, formed in 1971, have soared by £5,000 a year. Staff have offered to sacrifice their holiday pay, but the group will be closed within five months unless alternative money is found.

Mr Hague was in his element. Ignoring the old adage that politicians should steer clear of animals and babies. he stepped straight into the sandpit and pushed children down the slide under the watchful eye of Miss Platell. While staying in the back-

ground, talking to the parents, she nevertheless kept an eye on the most photogenic children for the photographers. Within 30 minutes the Tory roadshow, complete with Sebastian Coe. Mr Hague's chief of staff, had swept on to another appointment guaranteed to ensure maximum publicity: the local newspaper offices just before deadline. Only a calamitous wedding ceremony in which the bridegroom hobbled down the aisle in a plaster cast, with a bridesmaid in a similar condition, denied him the main headline.

New Labour's spin-doctors had obviously been at work again, Miss Platell was heard to mutter. However, The William and Amanda Roadshow left wreathed in smiles, with more carneras to record the



Keeping an eye on the main chance: Amanda Platell on the by-election trail yesterday

NEWS IN BRIEF

Animal exporters face tougher rules

The live export of animals to the Continent is to be subject to tighter controls. The Ministry of Agriculture is to send its own vets to check animal welfare, rather than exporters choosing and paying for their own vet. Vets must ensure that animals are fit for travel and that exporters are abiding by rules on rest periods and space.

Elliot Morley, Minister for Farm Animal Welfare, said: The Government cannot lawfully ban the live export trade because of EU single market rules. But the Government is committed to ensuring the highest possible standards." However, animal welfare groups expressed concern that the rules would not come into force before the the summer

Salmon fishing curbed

New bylaws to conserve spring salman stocks in England and Wales have been approved by the Government. Anglers will be required in release all salmon they catch before June 16. Netsmen fishing in estuaries and coastal waters will bave a start date of June 1. However, the Welsb Office said an exception will be made for the coracle net fisheries on the River Towy in Snuth Wales because of their "unique cultural and historical significance".

'Schools hoard £500m'

Head teachers are hoarding £500 million under the Local Management of Schools policy inherited from the last Government, while experienced teachers are being sacked to cut budgets, the conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers was told. The union called no the Government to rethink the policy, which it blames for the sacking of 8,500 teachers in the first half of this decade.

Refugee detained

José Da Conceição. 32. a refugee from Angola, who admitted the manslaughter of David Phillips. 42, three days after escaping from a secure psychiatric unit in West London, was ordered to be detained under the Mental Health Act by the Old Bailey. He pleaded guilty on the ground of diminished responsibility. Da Conceição, a paranuid schizo-phrenie, stabbed Mr Phillips with a carving knife after dis-covering that his victim had been given bis uld room.

Couple were murdered

A couple whose bodies were found in the living room of their flat in Barrow-in-Furness. Cumbria, were murdered, police said yesterday. The bodies of Derek McKell, 33, and his girlfriend Lorraine Richardsoo. 46, were discovered by Mr McKell's mother on Wednesday. Detectives think the unemployed couple may have known their killer as there were no signs of forced entry and nothing appeared to have

Rugby runaway hunt

Half of the players on an African rugby team who have gone missing in Britain are now officially listed as illegal immigrants. A dozen players from the Ivory Coast under-19s, who went missing in west Wales after their team linished 26th of 32 participating in a World Cup rugby contest, failed to join their team-mates flying out of Gatwick Airport yesterday. Police and immigration officials have been searching for the five forwards and seven backs.

Police follow up programme on Lawrence five

POLICE investigating the murder of Stephen Lawrence were following up new lines of inquiry last night after the five suspects broke their public si-

lence about the killing.
One of them, David Norris, said he was in the area on the night of the murder, staying at his girlfriend's house. Previously he had refused to give any details of his whereabouts. Two others. Neil and Jamie Acourt. said that they carried knives before Stephen was stabbed to death in Eltham, southeast London, in 1993. The disclosures came in interviews

Michael Harvey reports on the TV interviews with suspects

with the men on Tonight, a new ITV current-affairs programme. Mr Nor-ris, 22, who lives with his mother in Chislehurst, three miles from the scene of the murder, told the interviewer Martin Bashir that he was at his then girlfriend's house about halfa-mile from Well Hall Road, where Stephen was stabbed by a bus stop. Mr Norris is one of two of the men who in theory could still be tried for the murder after the original case

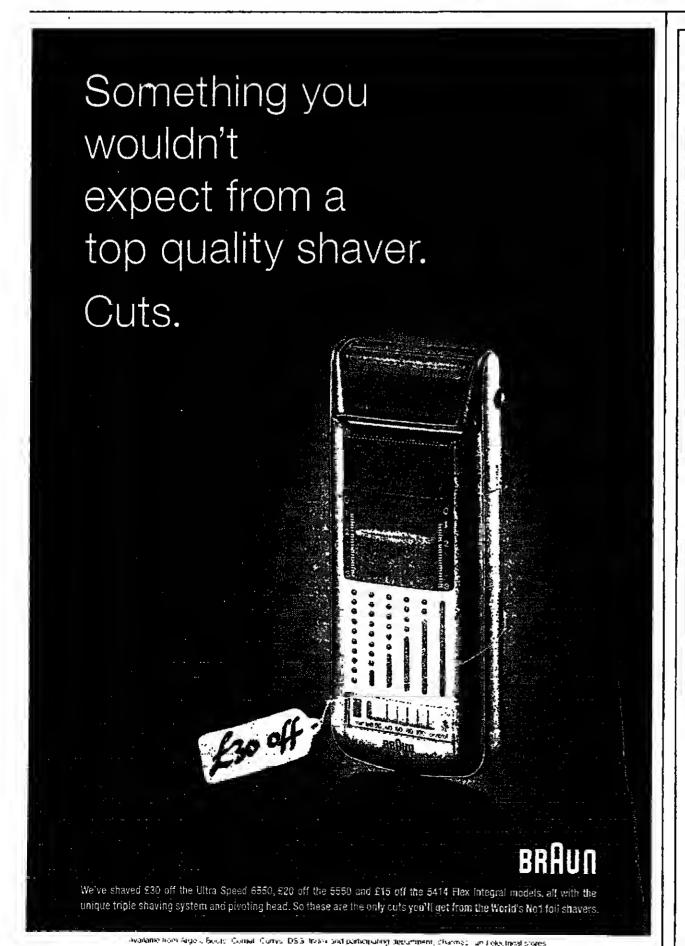
against him and Neil Acourt was thrown out by a magistrate for lack of evidence, Jamie Acourt, Luke Knight and Gary Dobson were acquitted at the Old Bailey two years ago after a private prosecution by the Lawrence family failed. They cannot be tried again for the same crime.

Bashir interviewed the five men separately at a neutral location. Neil and Jamie Acourt said that they were at home together on the night of the murder, playing computer games with their mother as a witness. They give conflicting stories about when they had heard about the murder. Jamie Acourt, 22, said he did not hear about it until the next day while Neil. 23, said he heard about it that night from someone who called at their

Gary Dobson, 23, said that he was out with his family having dinner and then later visited the Acourts at

their home a short distance from the murder scene. He also said that he heard about the murder that night from a third person. Luke Knight, 22. said he was at home in bed.

All five were asked directly for the first time: "Did you kill Stephen Lawrence?" All five protested their innocence. Mr Dobson said that the five were a group of "little bastards" on the estate, adding they were "rascals, loveable rogues". Neil Acourt accepted that he had a repulation: "If someone put trouble my way I would not stand for it, simple as that."



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Owen scores with £1m book deal

a gamble on England star's future, report

Publishers take

Adrian Lee and

MICHAEL OWEN has signed sport's most lucrative publishing deal: more than I million for three books.

The successful bidders ad-

Elizabeth Judge

nutted yesterday that they had taken a gamble on the enduring form, fitness and appeal of the teenage football prodigy. His third book - an autobiography - will not be published until after the 2002 World Cup, when he will be all of 22. The deal also shows remarkable faith in the England team's ability to qualify for both the Euro 2000 championships, on the back of which the second book will be published. and the World Cup.

The le ner field

where were

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Leading publishers had scrambled to sign Owen, the here in the b Liverpool striker. A spokeswoman for HarperCollins. which won the race, said yesterday: "He is quite simply the biggest sports star of the moment. He has a fantastic following and we believe he has jasting appeal."

Tre day 1 (N. The payments to Owen, who will be given "some help" in writing his life story, will be phased over four years. Even if his career ends this week, he will receive the full amount. The fee is thought to be the largest paid to any teenage au-I Clere thor. Few authors from any field can match it, although Jeffrey Archer received £22 miltion for a three-book deal.

Since the publication of Fever Pitch, by Nick Hornby, in 1993, there has been a surge in demand for sports books, Dayid Luxton, of the specialist hookshop Sports Pages, said: People will buy a book about their favourite player irrespec-nive of how good it is. But the best sellers are the ones with a decent story, like Addicted, by Tony Adams, which sold enor-

mously." He thought the sum paid by HarperCollins represented sound business sense and that Owen's autobiography would undoubtedly become a best seller. But he said of the growing trend among young sports stars to publish their life stones: "The readership is not stu-- pid. They know that if they wait there must be more to

Michael Earley, the publishing director of Methuen, said: "Sports books are a thriving market, but this is a huge risk. You generally see them contracted for only one book. They must believe that he has a future."

Owen's representatives approached several publishers after the World Cup, inviting them to pitch for the contract.



One for the book: Michael Owen, right, was on England duty with Alan Sbearer, left, and David Seaman yesterday, showing off the new national strip at the NEC in Birmingham

HarperCollins has previously published autobiographies by Adams, the Arsenal defender and recovering alcoholic, Ian Botham and Nigel Mansell. Adams's book is now the bestselling football autobiogra-

Owen's first book, on footsummer in conjunction with a six-part BBC television series. A scrapbook featuring his early life will be published next year, to be followed finally by the autobiography, in summer 2002. It leaves the way clear for part two of his life story to be published later, if his career continues to flourish.

Autobiographies by footballers are notoriously bland and . Owen yesterday did nothing to break the mould. He said: "I'm very excited to be work-

tising contracts. According to one survey, he is Britain's 17th richest sportsman. om/Owen_html biography, photographs, links to

The bestselling sports book is the autobiography of Dickie Bird, the cricket umpire, which sold 500,000 copies last year. However, it may well be overshadowed by the life story of Alex Ferguson, the Man-chester United manager, which is published later this year. He is said to have signed

ing with HarperCollins. It's a

great opportunity to pass on the skills I've learnt to young

footballers everywhere and to

tell my own story."
The deal will boost the mil-

lionaire status of Owen, who

has a series of well-paid adver-

'I hurled the clock against the wall. I was so gutted'

chat forums and many other sites relating to the Liverpool and

www.tin_it/rete/en/10/24236.html video of Michael Owen's

sensational goal against Argentina in the 1998 World Cup

by Tony Adams CollinsWillow

Arsenal defender charts descent into alcoholism. redemption and how those key" gibes hurt.
"So many carrots

were thrown at me that I could have opened a fruit and veg stall. One caught me on the ear which was really swollen after the game."

Vinnie: The Autobiography

by Vinnie Jones

Headline Book Publishing

Football's self-styled hard man proves that you don't have to be any good to write a bestsell-

So I went straight back into the toilets takging the clock with me and hurled it against the back wall. It smashed to smithergeens. I wasn't being a spoiled brat or anything. I was just so gutted I had the hump."

Harry Redknapp: An Autobiography CollinsWillow

West Ham manager Pre-sacking ramblings view me. We did not



Vinnie Jones: hard man turned actor and author



Masters of style: Ron Atkinson and Ruud Gullit

Gazza, Eileen, Beck-

— why none of it was

his fault — and a

strange bonding ses-

sion with a BBC inter-

walked into the station

I saw Ray Stubbs. He

was just about to inter-

"Then, as I

has writing style simi- of the England coach. lar to Vinnie's.

"I was just like I always had been. Still getting the hump when we got beat and taking everything too personally."

Glenn Hoddie. My 1998 **World Cup Story** Andre Deutsch

was a wonderful moment." Kevin Keegan: My Autobiography Little Brown

say anything. We just

embraced each other.

For all the sadness, it

From Scunthorpe to Geordie icon, how he fell off his bike in Superstars and the secret of football's dodgiest hairdo: "Just before I left for Germany, a hairdresser friend remarked that a perm might suit me and that it would be easier to maintain after training and all the showers I took ... That hairstyle

Ruud Guillt: My Autobiography Century

set a trend in football."

ham, missed penalties Flamboyant exponent of sexy football is a turn-off in print, despite literary allusions:

"Well, as a young boy I used to like watching Scrooge, so we have looked at my Christmas past, my Christmas present and my Christmas future."

It's still football, after a fashion

By JOANNA BALE

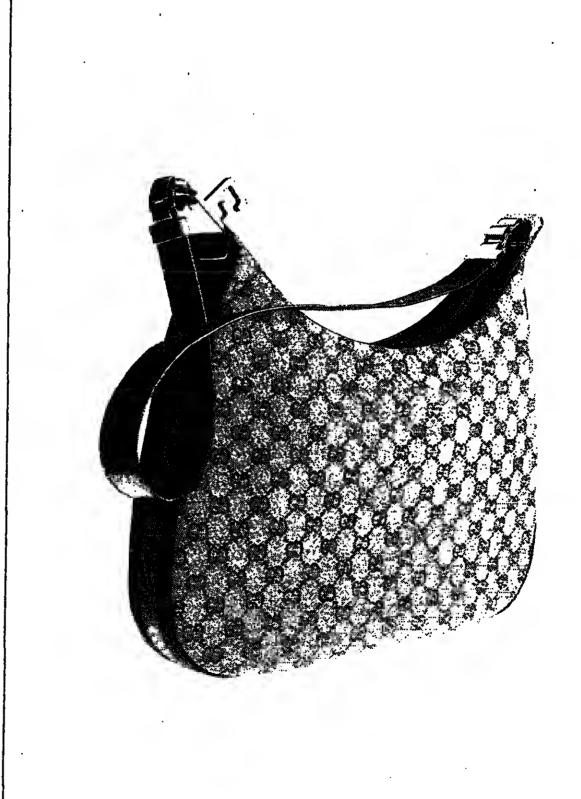
AS Michael Owen, Alan Shearer and David Seaman modelled the new England kit yesterday, thousands of young fans screamed with excitement at seeing their heroes, but many parents silently groaned in anticipation at having to fork out another £50 for

replica outfits. Craig Winterborne, whose Josbua, aged 7, was sporting an old-style England shirt at the event at the Birmingham NEC, said: "Josh got this strip for Christmas hut now it's obsolete. He's already asked for the new strip but I've told him that he can save up his pocket money because we can't afford it."

Richard Moore, of Umbro, manufacturer of the new kit under a £50 million sponsorship deal, defended its two-year lifespan after the unveiling for the BBC's
Match of the Day show: "It's now an industry norm for kits to be changed on a two-year cycle. We have to change them periodically to keep up with technological

hanges.

Although styled in a retro 1960s fashion with a simple round neck line, the new strip, according to Umbro, is the most technologically advanced ever. The shirt is made from Microfibre. which, says Umbro is "a highly durable and synthetic material that is lightweight and soft to the touch". To give players the edge in humid conditions, "the process of moisture management is helped by application of a Vapatech coating which draws moisture from the skin". The kit goes on sale on April 23, St George's Day.



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BALKANS WAR: POLITICS OF CONFLICT

Yugoslav borders have been shaped by the hand of history. From the turmoil of 1914 to present times, the region has been racked by rivalries



Serbia achieved independence in 1878. After the 1912 and 1913 Balkan wars Serbia occupied Kosovo, Macedonia and part of Thrace. The Austro-Hungarian Empire included Croatia, but after 1908 Austria also annexed Bosnia, causing lingering Serb resentment. In 1914 Gavrilo Princip, right, a Serb nationalist, sent shockwaves around the world when he assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, sparking the First World War.





Yugoslavia under Tito, right, had the same international boundaries as the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. established after the First World War. Keeping the separate states or "republics" that existed in the region, Tito created another by separating Macedonia from southern Serbia. He also gave autonomous status to Vojvodina and Kosovo to reduce Serb influence in





Tito's Yugoslavia started to break up in 1991, with wars of independence in Slovenia and Croatia, which were recognised by the EU in 1991. Macedonia and Bosnia followed, but Montenegro remained with rump Yugoslavia. After Bosnia declared independence war broke out in 1992, lasting until 1995. The Muslim President Izetbegovic, right, led the fight for a united Bosnia against Serb separatists.



'Ethnic cleansing' plans laid years ago

THE discovery of a detailed Serb plan to drive ethnic Albanians out of Kosovo - devised by Belgrade long before Nato airstrikes began — shows that the blueprint for President Milosevic's ethnic cleansing was drawn up shortly before the Second World War by a Serb nationalist responsible for triggering the First.

The chilling document - codenamed The Horseshoe Plan — came to light last week when a copy was leaked to Joschka Fischer, the German Minister of Foreign Affairs, by the government of an unidentified country bordering Serbia.

Le Monde reported yesterday. Dated February 20 and in Serbo-Croat, the substantial document, believed to have been stolen, shows Belgrade planned the deportation of ethnic Albanians, particularly those in Kosovo's urban centres, at least a month before the Nato bombing began.

The plan proves that the Serb actions were premeditated and not a reaction to the airstrikes, as claimed by Belgrade. It appears obvious that President Milosevic never had any intention of respecting the October 1998 peace agreement made with Richard Hol-

brooke, the American envoy, but was simply delaying allied airstrikes while he continued to manoeuvre Serb forces into position around Kosovo.

The document is significant. too, because of the written evidence it would provide against the Serb leader should he be brought before an international war crimes tribunal.

The German Government has confirmed that it is studying the document, but has yet to decide whether to make it public. "Operation Horseshoe began in Kosovo in November 1998 ... ft shows that the Yugoslav Army and police had

Milosevic expulsion policy drawn up before war, writes Susan Bell

drive people out of certain parts of Kosovo, from November until the Rambouillet negotiations began," Rudolf Scharping, the German Defence Minister, told Le Monde.

During the France peace talks, Serb repression in Kosovo was reduced. However, when the talks failed in February, ethnic cleansing was relaunched.

The Horseshoe Plan has its

planned, and then started, to roots in a document written more than 60 years ago by Vaso Cubrilovic - a Serb academic who held the dubious distinction of being the youngest of the seven assassins responsible for the death of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo in 1914, triggering the First World War. Sentenced at the age of 17 to 16 years in pris-on for treason, Cubrilovic was released after the Austro-Hun-

1918. He became a distinguished historian and a professor of philosophy at the University of Belgrade before serving as a minister under President Tito. He died in 1990. when 94.

His pamphlet, The Expulsion of the Albanians by the Serbs, published in 1937, advocated "using the brute force of an organised state" to drive as many Arnaoutes [Albanians] as possible from Kosovo towards Albania and Turkey. The scorched-earth ractics of Mr Milosevic echo methods recommended by his mentor, who proposed "secretly burn-

ing down Albanian villages and city quarters". Cubrilovic's description of

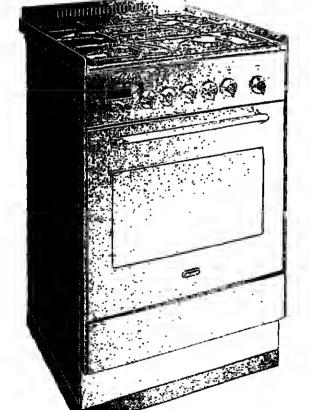
"the Albanian problem" has overtones of the run up to Hitier's Final Solution as he discusses the best way to systematically persecute ethnic Albanians to make it "intolerable" for them to remain in Kosovo. He advocates crushing any local uprisings, but gives a warning against using the Yugoslav Army, preferring gangs (one is immediately reminded of Milosevic's feared warlord Arkan) and forces from neighbouring states. (again, one thinks of the Macedonian

30,000 refugees from a makeshift camp) who must "secretly be given support".

The Horseshoe Plan an pears to have dispelled any lingering pacifist doubts among Western leaders, many of whom seemed unable to believe, despite the precedent of Bosnia, that at the end of the 20th century a European leader would carry out such a plan using methods that differ very little from those outlined before the Second World War.

Simon Jenkins, page 22

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Supporters deny Rugova has 'sold out' to Milosevic

AIDES to Ibrahim Rugova, Kosovo's unofficial ethnic Albanian "president", yesterday denied that he had cut a deal with President Milosevic in which the Belgrade regime might partition the province or at least keep it irrevocably

within Serbia.

Having played second fid-dle to the more radical Kosovo Liberation Army through the Rambouillet peace talks, Mr Rugova is re-emerging as one of the few glimmers of hope that there can still be a negotiated settlement, rather than the ground war between Yugoslavia and Nato that the KLA favours.

Nato officials and their Contact Group colleagues, howev-er, have reacted with scepticism to the news that Mr Rugova - who at one time was feared to have been killed in the anarchy that engulfed Pristina following the airstrikes— is seeking a peaceful solution to Kosovo's almost intractable ethnic problems.

They have suggested that he has been forced to talk with Mr Milosevic, or even that their meeting on Serbian state television was somehow rigged with footage of their

previous encounters.

But Adnan Marovci, Mr
Rugova's self-declared chefdu-cabinet, has said in a telephone call from Pristina that Mr Rugova has been misrepresented in the Serbian press, which has claimed over the past few days that the ethnic Albanian is now close to Mr Milosevic's official position that airstrikes should end before state security forces withdraw from Kosovo.

"He hasn't said that at all." said Mr Marovci. "He is de-manding the Serbs withdraw their forces from Kosovo immediately, quite apart from whether airstrikes end or not." Kosovo's unofficial president could ing the guerrillas. Their new yet emerge as a vital peace broker, reports Tom Walker in Belgrade

Other Albanian sources dren are being "protected" by have been puzzled by Mr Rugova's behaviour, and in partie-diplomats regard him as beular by his use of English during the press conference last week that proved he was still alive. His party, the Democratic League for Kosovo (LDK), has tried for much of the past year to persuade their leader to speak English, to help raise his international profile. Mr Rugova, however, has shied away from the language of the information age, preferring

"He spoke English and couldn't understand a word of what he was talking about," said one source. That could well be where the confusion is coming from."

Serbian state media say Mr Rugova, his wife and two chil-

ing under house arrest. They fear that his appeals for meetings with Western leaders are being refused by Belgrade, which instead is trying to push him into making contacts with the Russians. State media has even suggested that Mr Rugova might fly to Moscow for talks with President Yeltsin. Russian news agencies ves-

terday claimed that the Albanian was in Belgrade again, for a second meeting with Mr Milosevic. There were no pictures to confirm this on state television, however.

KLA representatives have said only that Mr Rugova will be "severely disciplined" if he does any deal without consult-

ovo does not include the LDK.

Any agreement that allows Mr Milosevic to wriggle clear of international peacekeepers in Kosovo would put Mr Rugova in grave danger, Western security experts in Yugoslavia have admitted. Ivica Dacic, spokesman for Mr Milosevic's Socialist Party,

yesterday lauded Mr Rugova's search for dialogue and a ne-

gotiated settlement". Mr Rugova, a bespectacled and slightly ruffled academic whose trademark is a scarf wrapped round his neck, is a linguistics expert who studied in France. His father was executed by communists after they restored Kosovo to Yugoslav control under Tito. Despite his family background of violence, however, Mr Rugova has been a Gandhi-like leader. preaching a policy of non-cooperation with Belgrade and the establishment of parallel education and health systems.



1 brahim Rugova, the ethnic Albanian leader, pictured during last month's peace talks in France, is believed by most observers to be under house arrest in Pristina

Dethroned prince dreams of glory

DESPITE the misspelling, a dirty brass placard announces a once grand presence: His Majest's Legation: 1879-1916. The British Embassy has been closed for more than 80 years; since then, two world wars, the formation and finally the destruction of Yugoslavia have taken place.

The building is now a music academy, and from the faded terracotta building comes the haunting strains of a student playing Bonesini's Tarantella on the double bass. But the former embassy still remains: peeling, faded, ghostly, the beautiful Venedan filed floors cracked, an important symbol of independence for the peo-

This is the heart of independent Montenegro and the former capital city in the

Janine di Giovanni in Cetinje on the hopes of Montenegro

days when it was still a kingdom. Prince Nikola Petrovic-Njegos, the grandson of the last King of Montenegro, now an architect and a fierce advocate of a free Montenegro, spoke to The Times on the troubles of his country which may soon go the way of the other former Yugoslav republics, and eventually break away from Belgrade. For ten years, we have been in the dictatorship of a nationalistic state which has prevented us from making a demo-

of the old communist regime, "he says. "It has forced the enore former Yugoslavia into absurd wars and it has locked them in a system of fear." He adds: "The number one problem here is Milosevic."

midor LS

Prince Nikola believes that the biggest obstacle to the country's independence is President Milosevic's strength. "Because of the mistakes of the international conmunity. Milosevic has managed to reunite the Serb people around him." Montenegro is important — it has Yugoslavia only stretch of coastline and Mr Milosevic needs it, militarily and psychologically.

Aleksandr Berculian, a local historian says: "We Montenegrins do not have a no-mantic history. We have a tragic one."

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BALKANS WAR: STRATEGY

1999: HOW BELGRADE COULD IMPOSE PARTITION K O S O V O Propulation before conflict. 2 Omillion (cubable 2 Amillion office) April 1999 G to 1.1million Albendaris displaced The partition Montened Report State of the set regions have be monastries, bleambet of the monastries, ble

Nato anticipates Serb partition ruse

AS NATO grinds down Serbia's forces and facilities, the West expects President Milosevic to spring a new peace gambit based on the partition of Kosovo. This has been seen as one of his aims since the international community started taking steps to halt the onslaught against the province's ethnic Albanians two years

The supposed Serbian goal would be to split Kosovo in two, leaving Belgrade in control of the northern and eastern regions that are home to the ancient monasteries and battlefields that are deemed to be the cradle of Serbian culture, as well as the province's considerable mineral and coal resources. Western suspicions of Mr Milosevic's goal have been reinforced by the pattern of the Serbian purge of Albanians, which has focused on the north and west and Pristina, the capital.

The West is not ruling out the creation of an enclave to create a haven inside southern Kosovo, but it is now highly unlikely that it would accept partition. Agreement would amount to condoning the ethnic purge and would be seen as a humiliation for Nato in its new aim of returning the Albanian Kosovars to their homeland and ridding the whole province of Serbian regular

Serbia's aim to retain the best of Kosovo will meet stiff opposition, writes Charles Bremner in Brussels

and paramilitary forces. In addition, partition along the supposed lines would leave a rump Kosovo that was economically unviable, say the experts. Belgrade would retain control over much of the wealth, including electricity production and deposits of zinc, nickel and coal that made kosovo the richest province in terms of natural resources in the former Yugoslavia.

This would create conditions for merging with neighbouring Albania. The emergence of such a "Greater Albania" is seen as a strategic aim by Mr Milosovic as a way of sowing conflict and destabilising the Balkan region.

However, a prolonged bombing campaign and the prospect of a bloody ground war could shake Nato resolve enough to consider an offer that could cynically be passed off as a parallel to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Under the Dayton peace accords, the West effectively condoned the country's partition into a Croat-Muslim region and Serb region. According to one theory, Russia could back partition

and enter the peace arrangement as a guarantor.

Planners at the United States Defence Department

States Defence Department have already sketched the demarcation line that they believe Mr Milosevic could seek to lay down. This would run from the Albanian border east to Decani, north to the outskirts of Pec, east along the main road to Pristina and then south past Urosevac to the Macedonian border.

Belgrade would control the main road links in the province as well as access to Macedonia and rich mining areas around Kosovska Mitrovica, northwest of Pristina, according to the Pentagon theory as reported by US media.

Serbia would retain key historic sites, such as the Patriarchate of Pec, the historic seat of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Visoki Decani monastery in Decani. It would also keep the Cracanica monastery and Kosovo Polje battlefeld, southwest of Pristina, where the Serbs were defeated by the Turks in 1389. Belgrade's mythology deems this to be the birthplace of the Serbian fight-

ing soul and it is also the place where Mr Milosevic launched his personal crusade for power in 1987. Sent by Belgrade to quell demonstrations by ethnic Serbs, he incited greater nationalism there by promising to save them from the Albanians who had achieved demographic ascendancy in the province.

province.
In this version of the map,
Serbia would lose Prizren,
which has holy sites. Some experts believe Belgrade could
also demand a buffer zone
along the whole Albanian fron-

In the unlikely event that the allies accepted such a deal, Belgrade could be expected to attempt to retain southern Kosovo as an autonomous province, as outlined in the now-defunct Rambouillet plan, and he would probably seek to have it policed by an international military force that included Russia and other states outside Nato.

Gloucestershire, yesterday as crews were loading a Bl bomber. It was not armed and did not explode. The weapon was a conventional bomb and not a cruise missile, a US spokeswoman at the base said. The area was evacuated for a time.

GERMANY GIVES DETAILS OF COVERT PLAN

Berlin: Germany yesterday revealed elements of what it said was Serbia's covert plan, Operation Horseshoe, to expel ethnic Albanians from Kosovo and said there was evidence that it had been drawn up six months before Nato began its air assault on Yugoslavia (Tony Paterson writes).

At a press conference in Boun, Rudolf Scharping, the Defence Minister, presented photographic slides of four sketch maps containing the names of towns and villages which displayed arrows representing Serbian army and police militia units progressively encircling Kosovo in a horseshoe-shaped pincer movement.

Herr Scharping said: "Operation Horseshoe provided clear evidence that President Milosevic had long been preparing the expulsions from Kosowo and that he had simply used the time gained by the Rambouillet peace talks to organise army and police units for the campaign."

Nato faces long-term task as a protector

AT some point a substantial number of Nato troops will need to go into Kosovo. If they do not, the refugees will not go home. They might still return if the Nato forces have been rendered more acceptable to the Serbs by having neutral markings on their vehicles or by an accompaniment of Russian and Ukrainian troops. They will not go if there are only unarmed monitors to watch over them. That was the last plan and it failed.

It is not only the returning refugees who will want high-quality protection. So will the said agencies providing assistance and all those who will be involved in the huge job of reconstruction All this requires secure conditions.

The Rambouillet peace plan envisaged the introduction of about 28.000 troops as a protection force. Around 12.000 British. French and German troops are in Macedonia, where they have been preparing for this mission. They are currently involved in the refu

This number was calculated with reference to the area to be covered, the nature of the terrain and internal communications, and the logistical problems. The damage inflicted by the Serb campaign against the Kosovan Albanians and the Nato campaign against the Serb units responsible may have affected the calculations but the new strategic situation involves the most important reason for a reassessment.

reason for a reassessment.

In the effort to get President Milosevic's signature, significant concessions were made to the Serbs — a provision for more than 5,000 Serb troops to stay in the province to patrol borders and assert sovereignty; and an undertaking that the Kosovo Liberacon Army



Substantial numbers of troops will be needed in Kosovo whatever the future holds, writes Lawrence Freedman

fighters would be disarmed. Even while the negotiations were going on it was not hard to imagine how skirmishes between Serbs and Albanians could give the implementation force a serious headache if it was to preserve law and order while maintaining a reputation for impartiality.

Nato demands have now been revised to require all Serb forces to leave Kosovo and it is doubtful that the disarmament of the KLA is going to be quite so high a priority. Without any Serb military units in the area the peacekeeping task would obviously be simplified.

Two new requirements suggest themselves. First, there will be a need to guard the border of Kosovo against any attempt to infiltrate Serb units. Second. the remaining Serb civilians, as well as their religious and historical sites, will need protection from Albanians seeking vengeance. Many weapons have already been distributed to Serb civilians. Having been used to harass the Albanians, these weapons will come to be seen as a vital form of self-defence.

This is one of the reasons why Kosovo will have to become in effect a Nato protectorate, whatever its constitutional position as notionally part of Serbia or on the road to independence. The alliance will have responsibility for law and order, guarding the borders and overseeing the reconstruction of the country's infra-

structure and the regeneration

of its economy.

The new requirements may lead to changes in the composition of the protection force but they do not argue for big revisions to the proposed numbers. The basic problem for Nato planners is that existing plans all assume the force enters with Serb consent. It was Mr Milosevic's refusal to countenance the entry of Nato forces that led to the breakdown of the Rambouillet talks and remains the central issue of contention.

Before he accedes to this demand under duress, Mr Milosevic will almost certainly first offer partition. As this would probably be accompanied by a movement of Serbs out of the rump Kosovo, this would ease the requirements of a protection force. For the moment such an offer would undoubtedly be refused.

Washington: Americans are digging in for a long war which they expect to last months or even years and result in the deaths of their own soldiers (Damian Whitworth writes). Despite President Clinton's pronouncements, they believe ground troops will be sent in to try and complete the job in Kosovo and they are roughly equally divided on whether this is the right thing to do. Mr Clinton will be studying most carefully data that shows a widespread belief that Nato is unlikely to achieve its aims swiftly and by air war-





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"Corridor' for US soldiers

Continued from page 1
ple for brutal nationalistic purposes," the EU foreign ministers said in a statement.

However, in Brussels there were firm denials that Nato bombers had been responsible for the huge damage to civilian buildings in Prisona.

Western defence sources said that although Nato bombers had hit targets in Pristina, the attacks had been in other parts of the town and they insisted that the type of damage being shown on television would not have been as the result of bombs from the air.

Intelligence sources said last week that there was evidence of Yugoslav troops placing trucks with explosives in a number of towns, to cause damage which could then be

blamed on Nato bombers.

Responding to Belgrade's claim that the oppression in Kosovo had now slopped. Senor Solana said: "The information that I have at the moment very clearly indicates that military operations are continuing on the Serbian side in a dra-

RAF Harriers were involved in back-to-back bombing raids

over Kosovo in the hunt for Yugoslav forces in the province. After one wave had returned from a morning raid, dropping anti-personnel cluster bombs on mobile Yugoslav units, a second wave took off for a similar mission. There were also further raids on Belgrade. More than 400 Nato missions were flown in 24

hours, the alliance said.

As a boost to Nato's plan to expand its firepower in the region, the Albanian parliament yesterday approved the deployment of 24 American Apache attack helicopters to Albania.

BALKANS WAR: THE ALLIANCE

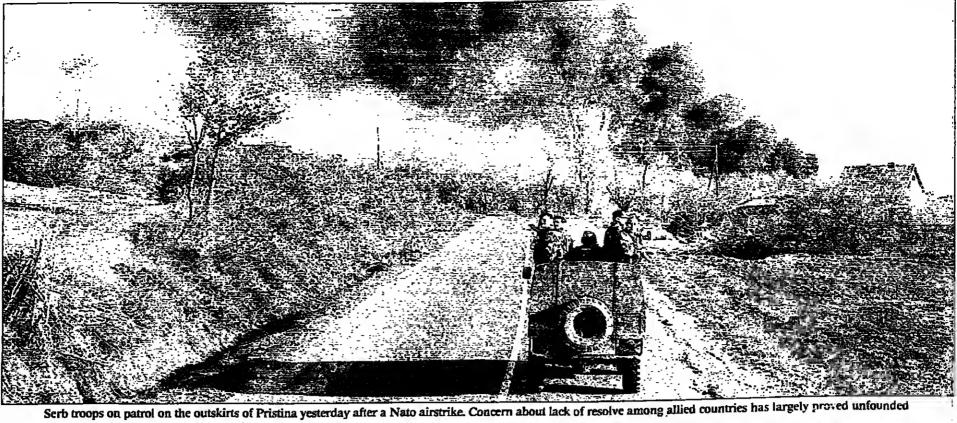
Nervous allies get appetite for war



Europe has found the stomach for a fight by marching to an American drum, writes Charles Bremner in Brussels

IF NATO blundered by counting on a swift collapse by President Milosevic after a bout of bombing, the alliance can take heart from another misjudgment. This was the assumption that confinental Europe had little stomach for a fight and the shakier governments would soon wobble under the pressure of public disapproval and pacifist poliocians.

A disaster in the Balkans could still bring that about Italy showed renewed signs of wavering yesterday with a sug-



gestion that that the bombing should stop soon. But for the moment, there is general relief over the resolve among allied states as the barbarity in Kosovo has rallied a revolted pub-lic behind the Nato offensive. A decade ago, after the col-

lapse of communism, it would have been unthinkable to imagine Paris, Bonn and Rome marching into battle on European soil under American command. Polls now show growing support for a ground cam-paign.

To the horror of diehard anropean Union as it tries to ti-imperialists in France, Germany and elsewhere. Nato's "just war", as Le Monde called it, has achieved a secondary result of reasserting American power in the old world and ex-

posing the feebleness of the Eu-

manage its own security and extend eastwards.

As the European media have turned the campaign into good guy Washington versus bad guy Belgrade, it is clear that even an incomplete and

messy success for Nato will galvanise the EU into speeding British-backed plans for a homegrown defence under Nato auspices. It should also jolt the EU into toning down the internal obsessions that bave sapped its desire for eastward expansion.

Old reflexes are still operatng. Ano-American feeling is visible from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean and it is being fuelled by signs of sup-posed Yankee arrogance. Many did not like the way

President Clinton dismissed the Belgrade peace offer apparently before consulting his Nato partners.

Nato partners. In Germany, Chancellor Schröder faces dissent from some of hls Social Democrats, while in Italy Massimo d'Alema, the Prime Minister, is under pressure from his Communist coalition partners. Greek qualms are a special case, given the country's Balkan entanelement.

But the biggest example of a Kosovo-inspired upheaval is in France, where the Gaullist President Chirac and Lionel lospin, the Socialist Prime Minister, have thrown their weight behind Nato, sowing dismay among hardline Gaulists and old leftists alike.

M Jospin's Green coalition partners are demanding a Nato ground offensive while the Communists, also in Government, have succumbed to old pro-Soviet instincts and are marching alongside pro-

Milosevic Serbs.
Traditionalist French thinkers claim the whole Balkan war is a naked American plot. supported by British poodles, for the control of Europe, How-ever most have fallen in behind the view - not heard in Paris since the wartime Liberation - that America has come as a necessary, although unwelcome, saviour for an impotent Europe.

Laying down new dogma yesterday. Le Nouvel Observateur, bible of the leftwing int-

elligentsia, thundered: "Denouncing American imperialism ... shows an intellectual vacuum, the abandonment of all internacional ambition for France and for Europe."

Against this background, governments are trying to extract lessons and carve out a role for an EU that has been sorely eclipsed. The biggest symbol of the pecking order came ten days ago when the European Commission dutifully turned up at Nato headquarters in Brussels for a crisis session on the conflict. French feathers were ruffled by this first official collaboration be-

tween the two organisations. The EU, which includes four non-Nato states, is trying to assert itself through human-

Nato's just war has achieved a secondary result of reasserting American power in the old world?

itarian relief and with diplo-matic and financial efforts to shore up the region. The Com-mission, enfectbled by its care-taker status, is busy with a plan to reward Macedonia with promises of jumping the queue for EU membership.

Beyond the immediate conflict. Europe is drawing one conclusion: the EU's new machinery for running a centralised EU foreign policy - due for launch this summer - will come to nothing without a fullscale military structure and the will to use it. A Nato success in Kosovo will be a big boost to Tony Blair's plan to ensure the closest of links between the American-led alliance and the EU's semi-autonomous EU defence arm.



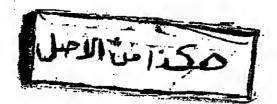
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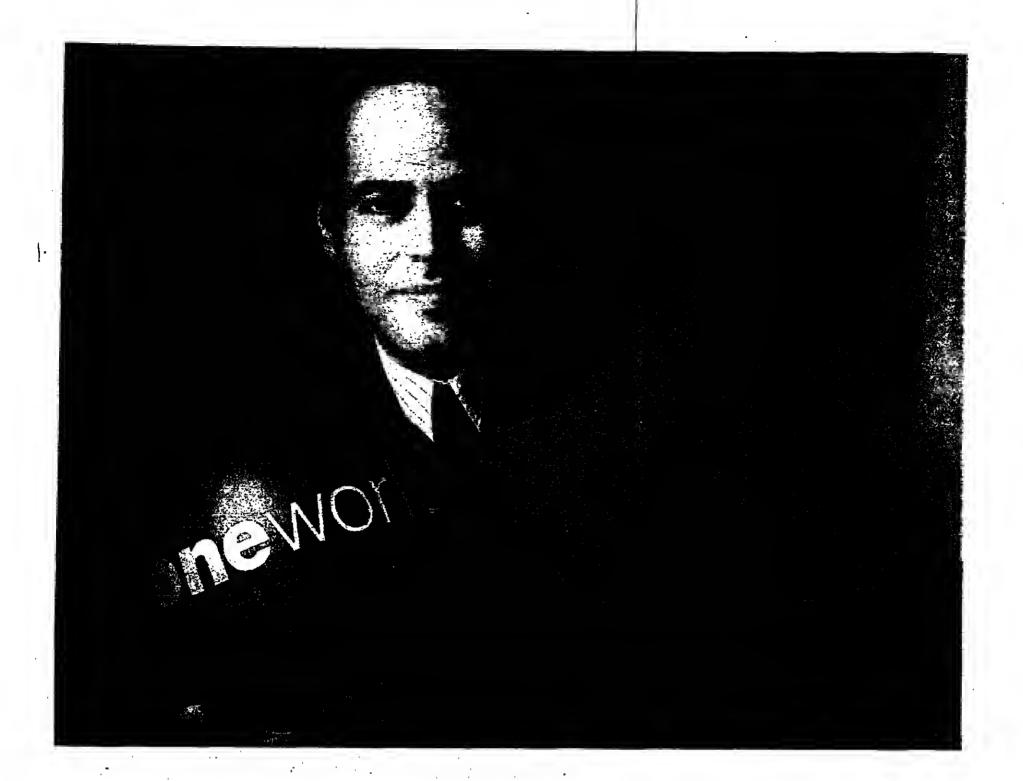
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British troops give sanctuary to destitute

TO PREVENT any more of Kosovo's refugees being forcibly driven out of Macedonia. British troops have offered to give sanctuary to anyone who wants it at its hastily built camp.

Senior officers asked Macedonian ministers if those families separated and stranded around the country could be brought together at the tented refuge built on a grass airstrip at Brazda. Brigadier Tim Cross, running this Nato relief operation, said: "We will find room for them all somehow so there is rime for the UN and everyone else to plan their futures properly.

In just two days about 28,000 refugees have poured into this still unfinished camp and they are still coming.

Yesterday, he located a makeshift camp of a thousand refugees near Kumanovo that no one knew existed. Its discovery involved him in more painful and protracted negotiations to get these forgotten fam-

ilies into his care.

Macedonian officials have yet to respond to the British nffer of a haven. Their inclination remains to push the Kosovo Albanians beyond its own

Daniel McGrory

at Brazda sees soldiers struggle

to rescue the sick and the dying

borders rather than ensure their comfort and safety.
While the Western alliance

remains the main provider for the refugees, its commanders realise they are going to have to hand over the running of its humanitarian camps to the United Nations and local officials while they ready themselves for orders to move across the border into Kosovo to enforce any peace deal. It is understood that Nato has giv-en a ten-day deadline for aid agencies to replace them but the dilemma is that without the Nato military role this aid operation would collapse.

Frightened families dread the prospect of Macedonian riot police taking control of this camp but British troops are reluctant to stay on "an open-ended basis". One senior

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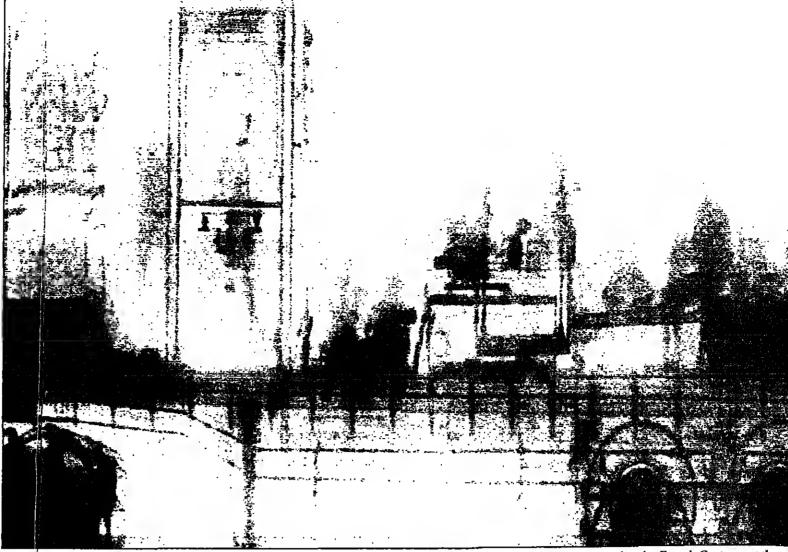
British officer said last night: "We can't be responsible for running a refugee camp maybe for years but we clearly won't walk away."

The most delicate issue is

the protection of Brazda. Macedonian police burst inside the compound yesterday saying they were looking for "terrorist suspects" linked to the Kosovo Liberation Army who they claimed were posing as refu-gees. Robust persuasion saw the police leave to the evident relief of watching refugees. But a senior Nato officer noted: 'The Skopje Government has said their police won't come inside our perimeters, but the truth is there is not much we can do to stop them."

Rows of tents dot the airfield and a nearby hillside. The newer, exhausted arrivals spread blankets on any patch of grass they can find as soldiers run between them offering food and drink. A seamless procession of lorries arrives bringing food, extra tents and blankets.

The sudden human deluge on Brazda was seen as a deliberate retaliation by Macedononian officials after Brigadier Cross and Clare Short, the Secretary of State for Internation-



An X-ray image reveals Kosovo Albanian stowaways inside a lorry bound for England yesterday. The X-ray was taken by French Customs at the Channel Tunnel freight terminal at Calais. About 40 ethnic Albanian refugees besiege the terminal daily to seek a way to cross the Channel

al Development, protested earstructing the refugees' escape. For some this sanctuary came too late. Major Jeremy

edge of the camp and which was staffed by doctors from half a dozen nations, "Some newborn infants, and some of the very old were beyond any Rowan stood outside the field medical help by the time they hospital he had set up on the reached us. If we could have

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got to them a few hours before it would have been a different story." The major transferred some of the most chronically sick in British Army ambulances to hospitals in Skopje but they were turned away.

"We have seen patients here who were thrown out of hospitals in Pristina without their post-operative wounds being properly dressed. There are many elderly people with chronic illnesses like heart ail-

ments, diabetes and they do not have their oredicines. markable after all their suffer-

Bombs start to take toll on Serb morale

THE moustachioed driver crossed himself in the Orthodox fashion and braced his arms on the steering wheel. Into the Valley of Death, we thought, our prayers joining his in the hope that the old jalopy would hold together in this, our hour of need. The steely-grey waters of the Danube sped by below as our nails dug into seat cushions and we

held our collective breath. Catching the 95 bus to Pancevo was a hazardous venture at the best of times, given the state of Belgrade's public transport system. But these days charging the mile of rickety ironwork that links the northern suburb to the capital has an extra frisson for commuters: the ancient bridge might be hit by a cruise missile.

Once home from their nightly run of Nato's gauntlet, their main concern is getting back the next morning. "When I hear the explosions, I roll out of bed and check if the bridge is still there. Then I go back lo sleep," said my taxi driver, Nenad. But he also spoke of the anger that wells up within him at every detonation. "As my house is shaking, it's difficult to tell you how I feel - but let them come to us on the ground, and then they'll have their deaths, too,"

As the bombs fall, Belgrade transforms from the reasonably civilised place it is by day to a shadowy world of security forces and night-ome prowlers in smoked-glass BMWs and Audis. It is a place where English can no longer be spoken. and quiet observation is made from the dimmest recesses. Groups of flat-dwellers huddle on pavements beneath the stars, and blue police lights

wink on distant intersections. There is anger. But there is fear, too, "I fought in Slovenia and Croatia, but I cannot understand this. Where will the bread come from for me to feed my wife and child?" asked Goran, driving one of the few taxis patrolling this nether world of laser-guided death. "I



Tom Walker looks beyond the anger and fear on the streets of Belgrade and sees cracks appear in national solidarity

and work."

But the bread does come, and the fruit and vegetables: the markets are full of them. and many of us wait for the strawberries of late spring. There are still traffic jams and many people travel one to a car, despite street rumours that fuel racketeers risk being shot on the spot and that diesel has run out in southern Serbia. Mobile phones bleep and students flock to Internet

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cases, though not to surf for news. In the sun, the terraces bustle with life and the Balkan love affair with Turkish coffee and a cigarette is unbroken. At a superficial glance, war with Nato is a phoney business.

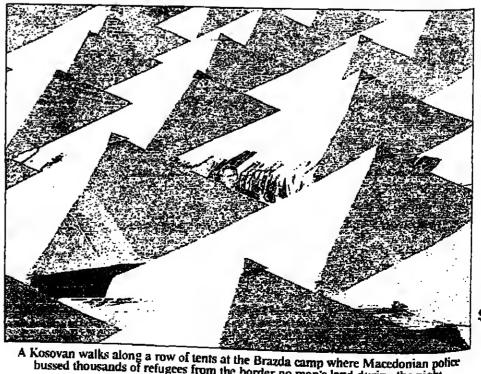
But look deeper and cracks are appearing in the rotten basement of Serbian society. where seven years of sanctions and reliance on a gangster-led grey economy are taking their ioll. Grafitti stretching across the wrecked interiors of the US and French cultural centres is coarse but funny; but the appearance of hardcore pornography films on midday television is disturbing.

Serbia is taking a battering, morally and physically. The airstrikes are leaving it in need of a Marshall-style reconstruction plan. Should Nam larget bridges across Belgrade's Sava and Danube rivers, the country will lie in a series of disjointed and moribund parts. There had been few functioning factories, and the bombardment of chemical and white-goods plants has put thousands more out of work. With production dip. .: ping towards zero, salaries go unpaid and people rely on the small farms from which nearly all came.
The effect of airstrikes on

the media is hardly encouraging either, with independent voices and opinions virtually snuffed out. Few Serbs have access to satellite television, and those that do dismiss much Nato-speak as lies. On the radio, the BBC World Service is similarly ignored.

In the heat of yesterday afternoon, it was difficult to believe anything was amiss in the leafy suburbs near President Milosevic's residence. Horses are trained in the hippodrome in the valley below, the sense of tranquillity broken only by a helicopter flying low to-wards the military hospital.

As Nenad waited to hear if his girlfriend Mira was safely across the Pancevo bridge, he tuned the car radio to his favourite station, Nostalgia 90.2 FM. "I like it because there's no news and they play music from the old Yugoslavia." he said. "It's good stuff and you can forget things for a while."



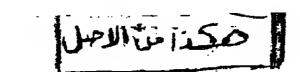
bussed thousands of refugees from the border no man's land during the night

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Troops mine frontier to cut off escape

SERB soldiers dug trenches and laid more mines along Kosovo's border with Albania yesterday to prevent any escape by the hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians who have been forced back from ref-

ugee convoys. The Serbs, who pointed sniper rifles at anyone straying too near the Morine frontier. toiled at their task yesterday to keep what Nato fears are huge numbers of hostages inside Kosovo, having spent the previous week robbing, raping, and expelling them.

Nevertheless, one man escaped. Rahim Zulfaz who at 83 is too old to serve in the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army and was therefore spared death. staggered across the border in his socks. He had been walk-ing for three days from a village close to Prizren, about 15 miles from the Morine crossing, after he got off his family's tractor to relieve himself, and was cut off as the Serbs forced the exodus of more than 260,000 people into Albania.

'My eyesight is now very bad. I could not find anyone and wandered about for a while. Then I found the road and just started walking. I had left my shoes in the trailer so I was just in socks," the retired farmer said.

He said he thought his family had reached Albania. He was resting from his ordeal in



Ogata: visited makeshift

At the Morine crossing point, Sam Kiley watches the Serbs try to keep in the inhabitants they had begun to drive out

shooting had stopped in Kos-ovo. They said I should go home. I did not tell them that

would be a waste of time be-

cause they had burnt it down.
I just said I wanted to see my

family who were in Albania. They gave me a glass of water

Yesterday Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Com-

missioner for Refugees, said

she was "very, very worried"

after a visit 10 a refugee camp

at Kukes in northern Albania

and wished me luck."

an Italian Army hospital set had still not been traced yesterday. Medical staff did not have the heart to tell him that they feared his relatives might be among the estimated 80,000 people driven back from the t5-mile queue that had been trying to cross into Albania at Morine.

Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, said yesterday she feared for the lives of the remaining Kosovo Albanians.
"They [the Serbs] seem now to
have started rounding up refugees queuing to leave Kosovo

and returning them by force. We do not know whether they have been driven back to their homes or elsewhere within Kosovo. It is not known where the refugees are and what is happening to them." But their fate is obvious to refugees who have fled Kosovo. Milo Goranyi, who ar-

rived at Morine four days ago before the border was closed. claimed: "They are being held in concentration camps as hostages and human shields. Milosevic needs them to defend against the attacks on his ground troops."

Mr Zulfaz described an eerie walk past thousands of vehicles that had been abandoned. He spent two nights sleeping in cars that he said had been left "in a hurry" with plenty of blankets inside.

Some of the vehicles, such as tractors and buses, had been destroyed by Serbs who were ordered to end the expulsion of Kosovo's Albanians. The Serbian leader's policy is clearly now to hold captive the remain-ing Kosovo Albanians since they represent his best defence

craft and helicopter gunships. Mr Zulfaz said: "When I got to the border the guards said I

Plight of missing thousands worries refugee agencies

AID agencies were still trying to discover last night what had become of thousands of refugees forcibly evicted from Macedonia's borders.

While the UN searched for 10,000 they say are unaccount-ed for. Nato is concerned about up to 60,000 refugees forced back into Kosovo by the Serbs in the past 48 hours. Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, is among many who fear these families may be used as human shields.

Most of Kosovo's borders remaioed scaled yesterday. Nato admitted that those repatriated were "beyond our reach". If thousands are trapped in Kosovo al gunpoint it will reinvigorate the argument for ground troops to be sent from Macedonia and Albania

Serb border troops could be scen laying new minefields yesterday just beyond the frontier, beside some of the cars abandooed by families who were made to retrace their tracks to homes they fear have

been burnt or seized.
In Macedonia a grotesque game of hide-and-seek was being played last night as the Skopje Government and aid agencies squabbled over the numbers bussed away in dark-ness from the squalid transit camp at Blace. The Red Cross and the UNHCR believe that between 27.000 and 30.000

had been held there. The Skopje authorities claim there were 15,000 at most. About 7.000, they say, 5 are in Albania, camping in a sports stadium. About the same number, they claim, are still inside Macedonia, including 2,000 sent to the Brazda

Nato commanders there say they only received three busloads on the night of the Blace deportation.
A senior UNHCR official

refuge run by British troops.

said: "Anyone who witnessed the scene at Blace can see there were up 30,000 on that

riverbank. We want to know where all these people are."
As neither the UN nor Nato

was allowed to register those trapped at the frontier, there is no way of knowing for sure. A UNHCR spokesman said: We have still not received a single name of any of those ex-pelled from Blace. What we know from those who are accounted for is that their fami-

lies were separated."
UNHCR officials in Greece said last night that a convoy of buses carrying 2,000 refugees arrived at the southern border of Macedonia and was turned away. They believe the buses were diverted to Albania.

They fear those unaccounted for may be being kept at makeshift camps closer to the Albanian border where the Macedonians want all the ref-

ugees lu go. Macedonian officials say they made it clear that they could accept no more refugees. Thomir llievski, of the Foreign Ministry, said: "A third of the Bosnian refugees we took in have oever gone home. We are not a rich country and this many ethnic Albanians would cause unrest."

He also criticised Nato's part in the exodus, sayiog these airstrikes provoked some of these people to flee Kosovo. We took them away at night because the roads were quieter so we could

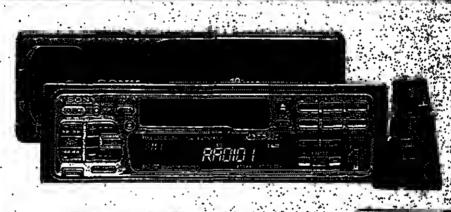
make their journey easier."
Last night Nato was using its surveillance planes to monitor the drift of refugees back to Kosovo. Monitors from the OSCE who have spoken to some of their local staff trapped inside Knsovo report that they were turned back from the borders by the Serbs who said as the operation against the KLA had ended it was safe for them to go home.

"Can you imagine anyone who stood on a road for eight days trusting someone who forced them out of their homes?" a spokesman said.



Kosovo refugees reach out to receive bread yesterday at a temporary holding camp in an old factory on the outskirts of Kukes in Albania. The exodus of refugees has stopped since the Serb authorities scaled the borders, prompting fears that they may be used as human shields:





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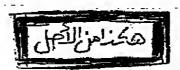
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Pregnant women told wine is worse than cigarettes

WOMEN who drink a glass of wine each day during their pregnancy could be doing more harm to their babies than if they smoke, according to research published in Belfast yesterday.

The study suggests that a woman who drinks between five and seven units of alcohol a weekrisks damaging the central nervous system of her

The research, carried out by the Foetal Behavioural Centre at the Royal Maternity Hospital in Belfast, found that a baby's brain stem was more adversely affected by alcohol than cigarettes. The findings will come as a shock to many women, who have been repeatedly warned of eigarettes during pregnancy but told that an occasional glass of wine would not do their foetus any harm.

Jenny Little, a researcher at the centre, said that her findings undermined the traditional medical wisdom that a little alcohol would not harm a deeloping baby.

She tested the startle reaction, or sudden movement of the arms, in 129 unborn babies aged 25 weeks. She found that who drank did not react to the

New research challenges

medical wisdom about dangers to

babies, reports **Audrey Magee**

buzzer stimulus placed on the mother's stomach. Most babies of women who did not drink reacted within the required 4.5 seconds. She tested women in four

categories: women who drank and smoked, women who smoked but did not drink, women who drank but did not smoke, and a control group of women who neither drank nor smoked. In the control group, 70 per cent of babies had developed the startle reaction by 25 weeks and reacted to the stimulus. Ms Little said that it was perfectly normal that the remaining 30 per cent of foetuses would develop the startle reaction at a later date.

But only 42.1 per cent of babies of women who drank reacted, compared with 55 per cent of the foetuses of women

dren of women who smoked and drank fared worst, with only 37.5 per cent of unborn babies reacting to the buzzing sound. Ms Little said: "I think more information is needed and more health promotion campaigns against drinking al-

cohol during pregnancy."

She said that she was uncertain of the long-term effects of alcohol on the children after birth as they scored normally in all tests carried out on newborn babies. She added that it was possible, however, that a baby showing no startle reaction in the womb at 25 weeks could suffer cognitive and be-havioural difficulties when it was older.

"We need more research carried out on this. In the United States women are told not to drink any alcohol during preg-The Foetal Behavioural Cen-

tre. which is linked to the psychology department of Queen's University in Belfast, has also examined the foetal movements of unborn babies suffering spina bifida. The research carried out shows that some kinds of spina bifida lesions would benefit from being operated on while the baby



Milk and honey: Rachel Rowlands has turned a kitchen hobby into a multimillion-pound organic dairy business

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Yoghurt pots a fortune for organic farm

AN ORGANIC farmer who used up spare milk to make yoghuri and cream has turned her kitchen hobby into a multimillion-pound organic dairy business.

Rachel Rowlands is now hoping to do for organic yoghurt what Laura Ashley did for flowerprinted cotton. But the success of Rachel's Dairy is all because of a freak of nature. A snowstorm in 1982 prevented rankers from collecting Guernsey milk from her 250-acre Brynllys farm at

Borth, near Aberystwyth. Mrs Rowlands refused to pour her milk down the drain. Instead, she hunted out her grandmother's old butter churn and separator and set to

"It took ten days for the tankers to get to us so I made the voghurts and cream and gave the skimmed milk to the cows. I approached some local shops and hotels with the produce

and they all wanted more." From a few dozen pots a week in 1982, which brought in some £5,000 a year, Mrs Rowlands is now producing 25,000 pots a day with a £3 million annual turnover.

Yesterday, a mulumillionpound deal with Horizon. America's main organic dairy producer, put Rachel's Dairy on track to expand with more organic dairy processing plants near organic farms around the country.

They hope to expand into new markets throughout Europe and Mrs Rowlands hopes that her business will persuade more farmers to return to organic techniques.

We want to help to bring more jobs to the countryside and for farmers to convert to organic techniques," she said.

There is still a lot of reluctance to do so, though. They think if everyone does it there won't be a market. But we are only using 3.5 million litres of

milk a year. We want that to

go to five million in a year and 20 million in the years ahead." The farm, first owned by her grandmother and then by her mother. Dinah Williams, now 88, has been a leading exponent of organic farming. Mrs Williams was convinced that she should stick to traditional farming lechniques after a chance meeting with Lady Eve Balfour, a founder member of

the Soil Association, in 1948. Mrs Rowlands. 52, and her husband, Gareth, 54, continued the trend and realised that people were concerned about the origins of their food and how it was produced. They opened up their farm and allowed people to see what they did and how the animals were treated.

The couple refused to say how much they had made on the deal. Mrs Rowlands said. however, that they and their three children had gained security: "We will feel comfortable and relaxed. Don't listen to anyone who says hard work does not pay. We took many risks over the years and we put our farm as collateral to get the factory."

The couple will be consultants to the firm. Mrs Rowlands has a seat on the board and her son John. 32, will be operations manager of the company in Britain - so far a factory in Aberystwyth with a staff of 48, but they hope to double the business within

five years. Other processing plants are also planned, possibly in Comwall and Lancashire.

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Minister.

When the bride wore red

By PHILIP HOWARD

IN Ancient Greece, a bride wore a veil that marked her out as an object of importance. Her modern sister 25 ceoturies later wears one for the same purpose. Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones.

of the University of Wales. yesterday gave a paper to the Classical Association, meeting in Liverpool, on the wedding customs his research has uncovered. The few ancient texts that speak of the wedding veil call its colour "krokos". This is usually translated as yellow. like the bulb we call a crocus. But ancient colourwords are problematic.

Liewellyn-Jones thinks that the Greek veil was not yellow, but red. He argues that it was a meta-

most "veil societies" red veils are still worn at marriage rituals. There may be a connection between the colour and the blood of the bride supposed to be released at first intercourse.

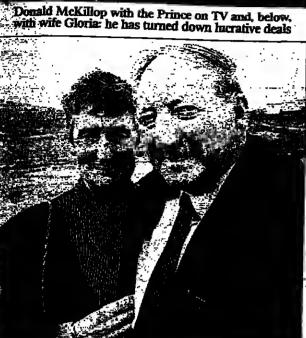
In some modero weddings the bride is unveiled at the end of the ceremony with the exhortation to the groom. "you may now kiss the bride". The bride was also unveiled at an Ancient Greek wedding. Bul Mr Liewellyn-Jones believes that her unveiling was a rite of debasement.

The unveiling bappened at the home of the bride, before she was led off, veiled again, to the groom's house in the ancient equivalent of a stretch limo fesphor for the hymen. In tooned with white ribbons.

مكذا من الاصل

Prince visits old man of the islands







The Prince of Wales among young shinty players yesterday on Berneray, where he had returned to open a £6 million causeway

Gillian Harris and Alan Hamilton on a reunion in the Hebrides

rides vesterday to visit the old friend who taught him about crofting. Don-Royal Yacht Britannia. Shortly after ald McKillop was his host for a prihis marriage, he landed on the is-land from the yacht with the Prinvate visit 12 years ago when he retreated to the island of Berneray to try the simple farming life. cess of Wales. By 1987 his marriage was in virtual ruins and he was The Prince has the title Lord of the : spending more and more time alone Isles. Mr McKillop has the nick-name Splash, which he says derives from a childhood habit of walking in Scotland. He asked to experience the crofting life, both as a farmer himself at Highgrove and a king in in puddles, although other islanders waiting anxious to meet his ordinary future subjects. Mr McKillop insist it refers to the amount of wawas chosen as a typical crofter, growter he puts in a glass of whisky. Their latest reunion-came as the ing arable crops and potatoes and Prince travelled to Berneray to open rearing sheep.

The Prince was a guest for five a £6.6 million causeway linking the tiny island to North Uist. days, living in the cottage with the The Prince first knew of Berneray crofter and his Australian wife Glofrom the Royal Family's traditional ria, a retired nurse. During his visit Western Isles summer cruise in the 'the Prince helped to build a drystone

THE Prince of Wales took time off from official duties in the Outer Heb-

wall, planted potatoes, dipped sheep and fished for prawn and lobster in a creel boat, hauling in the lines like an experienced deckhand. He also attended a local funeral and tried cutting peat on neighbouring North Uist. According to friends, he fell in love with the crofting lifestyle and went home with his developing interest in organic farming firmly rein-

So discreet are the islanders that the Prince's 1987 visit to Berneray remained a secret until it was over. He returned to the island in 1991 to make a television documentary with the presenter Selina Scott, but since then had not been back until yesterday. After the programme, A Prince coction of whisky and liqueur when

Among Islands, was shown, Mr McKillop was inundated with requests from restaurants wanting to buy potatoes, known locally as Prince Charlies, from the "Prince's croft" but, despite the lucrative deals on offer, the crofter refused.

Mr McKillop, now 67. still runs his croft, although he has given up arable crops and it is a long time since he went out in his own fishing boat. Since his wife Gloria retired from the health service, they have run a bed and breakfast business from their home.

The Prince arrived more than an hour late yesterday due to high winds. He recalled drinking a conhe was last on the island. "I discovered what a 'rusty nail' is, and I am not sure that it did anything for my brain. However I am hoping for another one later," he said. He met most of the island's 130 population in the community hall, and later had a private meeting with the Mc-

Killops. The Prince was already well-informed on farming before his 1987 stay. During the 1970s he had absorbed the ideas of sustainable agriculture promoted in Fritz Schumacher's book Small Is Beautiful. When he began to take a hands-on approach to running the Duchy of Cornwall, he was persuaded of the merits of organic farming by its then secretary, Sir John Higgs. He began an intensive programme of visiting Duchy tenant farmers, which included spending a full week on a Dartmoor hill farm, which produced a memorable picture of him

milking a cow. The island celebrated the Prince's visit with a shinty festival and an informal buffet in the church hall, Before officially opening the half-mile long causeway, which replaces a ten-minute ferry crossing, the Prince visited Chearsabhaig Arts Centre in Lochmaddy, North Uist, and the

town's refurbished medical centre. The Prince had also been hoping to declare the causeway open in Gaelic, but that had to be abandoned, because there was no time to rehearse with any of the Gaelica link icide apts UMBELOW

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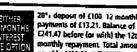
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· British TV 'too morose for foreign tastes'

BRITISH television shows are considered too "gritty, dark and socio-political" by many foreign channels, a governmentbacked report said yesterday.

Home-made drama, in particular, is regarded as "non-escapisi" and bleak, while our comedies are often incomprehensible to an overseas audience because of their reliance on social nuance.

Television stations in other countries believe many pro-grammes to be too "intrinsicaly British" and morose, the study says. The French chanel M6, for example, rejected Prime Suspect, the crime drama starring Helen Mirren, givng as its reason: "British stuff is so realistic. It doesn't necessarily mean that it is violent, but it is dark, drugs, sex - not always graphic violence, but it is just perverse.

A spokesman for Canale 5 in traly said: "Television should be about entertainment and escapism. We do not want to watch a programme that deals with the same problems that you faced in the day."

Part of Britain's problem would appear to be the climate, according to the report. It says that the Australian soap opera Home and Away captured teenage and young family audiences all over Europe by portraying a destina-oon that many Europeans

Programme makers urged to

follow example of Australian soaps, reports

find attractive; an open, young country with a sunshine life-style." By contrast, it says, "an old country like Britain will lose out if it, too, cannot portray itself as a fictional destination which audiences else-

Carol Midglev

where can enjoy".

The report, jointly commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and British media companies, said that the British sitcom was considered to be in decline by foreign buyers. At recent screenings, ITV's Holding the Baby. starring Nick Hancock, was described by buyers as "lacking real spirit, very dull".

Keeping Up Appearances. the BBC's highly popular com-edy about a middle-England social climber, has been successful overseas. But the report says: "Hyacinth Bouquet . . . is seen abroad exclusively as a bossy, overbearing woman, not as a snob or social climber.

Thankfully, other elements of the comedy mean that the show is successful anyway." Chris Smith, the Culture Sec-

retary, yesterday launched an inquiry into the broadcasting market to improve Britain's export of programmes in the

Mr Smith said the British television industry was running a £272 million trade deficit, partly because of the high prices paid for Hollywood films, American imports such as Friends and the introduction of multi-channel television in recent years.

The report, written by the media consultants David Graham and Associates, and backed by such bodies as BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the BBC, Granada Media International and Pearson Television, said that the Britisti television industry tended to be "self-sufficient and insular" and had not made the best of co-production deals and overseas programme sales.

Britain is, nevertheless the second-biggest exporter of programmes in the world after America, although the British share of the export market is 8 per cent compared with America's 72 per cent.

Among those programmes markets are the crime drama Cracker, Teletubbies, Top of



Benny Hill's seaside-postcard humour still sells well abroad, but situation comedies struggle to find foreign fans

the Pops and Benny Hill. Britain also has a good record for exports of high-quality science, history and wildlife programmes, and for developing entertainment formals that can be adapted for audiences abroad such as Cilla Black's Surprise, Surprise and Ready,

مكذآ من الأصل

The report recommends that the Government should consider relaxing the regula-tion of domestic broadcasters to enable them to compete more successfully abroad, consider giving tax breaks to encourage investment in original programme production, and that a single trade body such as the Briosh Television Distributors Association should act as a focus for exports.

Mr Smith praised the high

quality of British program-ming, and said that broadcasters should not dilute the unique Britishness of programmes simply to cater to for-eign tastes. What we must not end up doing is making the tail wag the dog," he saio.
The report came after the an-

nouncement that Coronation Street has been sold for broadcast in the US for the first

time. Rupert Gavin, chief executive of BBC Worldwide, said: The BBC has a positive halance of trade in programme ex-ports of £22 million in 1997-78 and constitutes about half of all UK exports.

"However, the marketplace is increasingly competitive and we have had to find innovative ways of meeting those

Hospital drama link to suicide attempts

BY HELEN RUMBELOW

SUICIDAL viewers mimic the medical emergencies they see on television hospital dramas such as Casualty and

ER, a study has found. In the week after a paracetamol overdose was shown on Casualty, hospitals saw up to 20 per cent more cases of overdose with the drug.

It is the first time that television drama has been shown to affect suicide rates in Britin, according to the author of the report, Keith Hawton, Professor of Psychiatry at Oxford University.

The findings, published in the British Medical Journal. raised serious issues about whether suicide should be dramatised, he said. Potential suicides seemed to take note of the drug used, with overdose patients who had seen the Casualty episode twice as likely to take para-cetamol as those who did not.

Researchers monitored the effects on hospital admissions of an episode of Casualty in which an RAF pilot arrives in hospital two days after taking 50 paracetamol. The 49 hospitals checked recorded an average rise of 17 per cent in paracetamol overdoses, and a 9 per cent rise in overdoses using other drugs. in the next week

A spokeswoman for Casualty, a Saturday primetime show on BBCI, said details of suicides were shown in the interests of realism.

Duck in Bath holds up £15m millennium plan

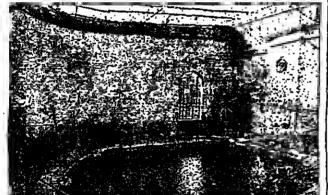
BY A CORRESPONDENT

BEATRICE the broody duck is causing problems in in the Roman spa city of Bath by holding up a £15 million millennium lottery project. Council chiefs want to re-

store a 2,000-year-old hotspring bathing pool but the maternally-minded mallard has built a oest beside the famous Cross Bath and started laying eggs. While Beatrice nonchalantly warms its dutch, a row has batched over how and when to n the bird out of the way.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act a wild bird's nest may not be disturbed without a special liceoce. Voluntary workers looking after the bath firmly believe that the duck should be left in

Members of the Spriogs' Foundation said they were horrified at a suggestion to call in experts from the Wet-



The Roman bath where the ducks have set up home

lands and Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge to move Beatrice. But Bath and North East Somerset council wants the duck evicted quickly so that preliminary tests can start and heavy plant moved onto

the site. The baths were closed to bathers in the 1970s. They fell into disrepair but were al-

wold, exhausted and terrified. Disease is spreading fast.

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ways open for the public to view. In 1991 the voluntary Springs' Foundation was formed to maintain and restore the baths. The group turned the Cross Bath into an open-air sanctuary where peoe could sit and relax in qui-

Project leaders want Beatrice out of the way so that they can start tests to determine whether the spring water can be made safe for bathing and drinking again.

But the council cannot carry out the tests while the duck and its mate, Arthur, or any other ducks are present because their faeces contaminate the readiogs.

The six-week deadline for moving in heavy plant equipment is just about the time that the duck would be ready to hatch its eggs - unless it is

Margaret Stewart, spokes-woman for the foundation, said some staff were prepared to barricade themselves in to prevent Beatrice being driven out and separat ed from the eggs. Animal activists

thought to be involved earlier this year when netting over the pool - to stop regular visitor Beatrice getting in - was slashed But on Easter Monday the

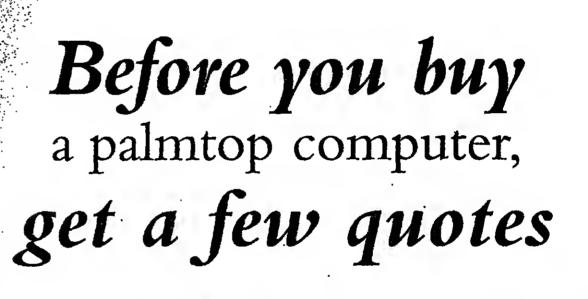
devious duck allegedly hounced up and down on a joint until it gave way and slipped through the £2,000 replacement netting and into

Rhodri Samuel, co-ordinator of the Bath Spa revival project, said the problem had been foreseen as the recalcitrant duck had previously nested in the bath.

He said: "We want the duck out. But obviously we would not do anything to harm the bird."



The broody duck goes to work on the eggs



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● New inquiry into profits ● Concern at 'barrier' to competitors Are superstores cheating you?

AN INQUIRY into charges of profiteering and anti-competitive practices by supermarkets has raised issues that merit further investigation, the Office of Fair Trading said yesterday.

John Bridgeman, Director General of Fair Trading, said his office's nine-month inquiry into the EoO billion supermarket business had been "inconclusive". As a result, the Comperioon Commission, formerly the Monopulies and Mergers Commissio, has been given at least another year to report to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on whether supermarkers enjoy too much monopoly power and make excessive profits. The inquiry will encompass all companies in Britain with ten or more stores or with more than 600 sq metres of retail sales space.

The OFT examined the profits of the four largest supermarket chains - Tesco. Sainsbury. Safeway and Asda over a five-year period from 1993 to 1998. The study took data from 1.630 stores and included an independent evaluation of land and buildings.

Mr Bridgeman said: "After analysing the profits of the four largest supermarket chains using a range of conventional and specialist economic measures. I have to conclude

HOW THE MARKET LEADERS CHECK OUT OPERATING PROFIT OPERATING MARGIN SHARE OF MARKET 1998 (ex. VAT 1998 (%) CAPITALISATION (From Verdict Research) £7.619m Sainsbury 391 £15,496m £7,342m 9.6% £6,979m 6.8% £2,789m £6,056m 6.7% £1,571m Tesco 600 £882m 9.3% £10,751m £147m 1.2% 85 £2.367m Carrefour (France) 937 £18,437m .£700m £17,381m 3.8 Metro (Sermany) 474 £32,465m

that there is a level of profitability here that requires further investigation by the Competicion Commission."

Mr Bridgeman said the most important issue was the nature and extent of barriers to new competitors entering the sector. Other areas of concern included the impact of land prices on costs; the intensity of price competition at local, re-gional and nadonal levels; and the nature of relationships between the supermarkets and their suppliers, including agricultural producers.

I believe there are now significant barriers to new competitors in high-volume grocery retailing in Britain," Mr Bridgeman said. "Sites fur

new stores are dwindling and this gives the existing stores an advantage. Planning delays, site development costs and the ability of the largest stores to outbid smaller rivals add to

tors could be expected to have on the behaviour of the current main players."

He was not satisfied that competition between existing

6 I have to conclude that there is a level of profitability here that requires further investigation?

concerned that grocery prices the problem. This should not be seen as criticism of planare often set to match competining policy, it is simply to state iors rather than to undercut the fact that there are signifithem, particularly in catchcant barriers to entry and they ment areas where consumers limit the impact new competi-

markets. I have had concerns for some time that the supermarkets' power may become exploitative and the many responses from suppliers during our inquiry suggests that it is something which needs to be looked at.

The Consumers' Association welcomed the announcement. A spokesman said: "Consumer and competition issues in the supermarket sector are extremely complex and there is an urgent need for an in-formed public debase. There does appear to be evidence that the supermarkets have not been passing savings on to

Spokesmen for the big supermarket chains said the deci-

NEWS IN BRIEF 125 murder trio in new appeal M25 murder trio win new appeal

Three men jailed for life for the murder of a motorist on the M25 and a series of robberies will have their cases referred back to the Court of Appeal, the Criminal Cases Review Commission said yesterday. One of the men's solicitors disclosed that a key witness at their trial was paid £10,000 by a national newspaper and £300 by the police.

Michael Davis, Randolph Johnson and Raphael Rowe,

known as the M25 Three, were jailed at the Old Bailey for a series of attacks one night in December 1988, including the murder of Peter Hurburgh. He was dragged from his car at gunpoint and beaten, which led in him suffering a falal heart attack. The accused had an appeal against conviction dismissed by the Court of Appeal in 1993.

Breast doctor resigns

A doctor who was at the centre of a breast screening scandal has resigned after seeing an advance copy of an official report. John Brennan, a consultant radiologist, was in charge of breast screening at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. which failed to identify 24 cancer cases. Dr Brennan resigned within hours of reading the final report by a disciplinary panel into the case, in which nine patients died. In a statement he rejected criticism in the report of his clinical competence.

The Government was accused of rushing through a ban on the use of lead shot for wildfowling without fully consulting the 20,000 people who take part in the sport. The ban was unexpect-

edly announced yesterday. Shooting groups accept that the ban is needed to stop birds being poisoned by the lead pellets, which they eat off the ground. But the British Association for Shooting and Conservation complained that it would have little time to advise its members no alternative shot.

Wildfowlers WW2 bomb angry at ban empties pier

led to safety from Britain's longest seaside pier yesterday after fishermen dredged up an unexploded World War Two mine half a mile off the beach. Police ordered a full-scale evacuation of the crowded pier at Southend, Essex. when the unexploded mine was brought to the surface in the nets of a fishing boat. Seafront roads were closed

to traffic while an army bomh disposal team was called in from Colchester garrison, 40 miles away.

Mobile phone review

Radiation watchdogs are to take a new look at the health effects of mobile phones. The inquiry was launched yesterday by Tessa Jowell, Minister for Public Health, after evidence from Bristol University that mobile phones may cause localised brain heating; Ms Jowell asked the National Radiological Protection Board to review all the research. "There has been no consistent evidence suggesting risk to health but there is continuing concern about the possibility: "she said.

Not so super highway

Two thirds of Britons have never used the loternet or sent electronic mail, according to a survey by NOP. The West Country has the lowest Internet usage at fewer than one in four people. The greatest usage was in London, where three out of five have used it at some stage. Only 28 per cent of those questioned could define the Internet as a global computer network. The study showed that just under 50 per cent of men had used the Internet, against 34 per cent of women.

have a limited choice of super-Loyalty comes at a price

BY ROBIN YOUNG

SOME surveys have claimed to show that basic food items can be up to 40 per cent more expensive in this country than in the rest of Europe or the United States, but like-for-like comparisons are notoriously

Other surveys have claimed to show that basic food items are cheaper in Britain than in France or Belgium, The supermarkets say that there cannot be much dissatisfaction with shops as consistently wellused as theirs.

Most recent figures give Tesco with 16 per cent of market share. Sainsbury 13 per cent, and Asda 6 per cent. Safeway has recently lost ground but Somerfield, the fifthlargest company, exceeded ex-

pectations at the beginning of this year by doubling its inter-im profits and showing a 3.4 per cent increase in likefor-like sales. Discount chains have not

had great success in Britain

but they are a lively section of the market, credited with having some effect in reducing the big companies' profit margins. Kwik-Save, which was the leader in the field, was forced to merge with Somerfield when faced with rapidly diminishing market share, and has

been rebranded with higherpriced and better-quality stock.
The heaviest discounters are Aldi, Nette and Lidi, German and Danish companies with about 250 stores each and an estimated total market share of 3 per cent. In a recent sur-

vey, a fifth of shoppers said

well for price and quality. is seeking to expand. There are also convenience store operators trying to make inroads by opening 24 hours in the hope of attracting customers who are keener to avoid queues than to minimise bills. Few consumers show loyal-

way said: "We welcome the op-

portunity to clear the air and

are confident that we will get a

good result." David Reid, Tes-

co's deputy chairman, said:

The Compeniion Commis-

sion will find we champion the

Janet Nunn, director of food

and drink at the British Retail

Consortium, which represents

90 per cent of retailers, said

the referral would allow retail

ers to prove the sector was com-

petitive and that customers

were reaping the benefits.

A handful of food retailers

control almost 50 per ceni of

the £87 billion-a-year food mar-

ket, and some retail analysts

allege that this has led to the

formation of an anti-competi-

Critics claim that the main

chains, including Tesco and

Sainsbury, which produced pre-tax profits of more than £1.5 billion between them last

year, charge more for goods in

areas where they face less com-

petition. Asda is the only ma-

jor multiple retailer to operate

a national price policy. The su-permarkets say that the sector

s fiercely competitive and that

their profits are not out of line

with international standards.

oon of supermarkets in the ear-

that the companies had no

they had used discount stores

and rated them best on price.

Morrisons, the northern chain whose customers rate it

A previous OFT investiga-

y 1980s eventually concluded

tive cartel.

consumers' cause."

ty to any particular supermarket. One in four shoppers told researchers that they would prefer to shop somewhere other than the store they used for their main food supplies.

Many have loyalty cards for more than one supermarket chain, and a fifth of shoppers said that price was the most important factor in choosing a

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Allergy sufferers urge more caution on food

BY CHRISTINE MIDDAP

JOHN PAGE thought that a cheese and cress sandwich could not possibly ignite his body's severe reaction to shellfish. But just as he was about to take a bite, the caution of the allergy-sufferer overcame him and he checked inside the sandwich. He found three prawns - enough to cause a serious allergic reaction.
Stories of carelessness in

some parts of the food industry were given by 28 teenagers with life-threatening allergies who met in London yesterday, Mr Page, 18. of Chingford, said: "You look at food that should be perfectly safe but you think that you can't eat it in case a prawn has got in there. There can be quite a lot of cross-contamination."

The results of food contamination or incorrect labelling can be fatal. In Britain last year a 19-year-old died after eading a takeaway curry that contained nuts, even though he had asked for a nut-free dish. A 36-year-old West York-shire woman died in 1987 after eating airline food that contained nuts.

Sometimes the allergy trig-ger is less easy to spot than a prawn. Teenagers yesterday said that food cooked in oil, such as chips, could also produce a reaction if other food containing nuts had already been cooked in the oil.

In people affergic to nuts. even body lodons and shampoos can cause a reaction because they can contain nut oil.

David Reading, director of the Anaphylaxis |severe allergic reaction] Association, said: Things have improved tre-mendously in the past few years and pre-packaged foods are pretty good in terms of la-belling." But he said restaurants and takeaway foods could still cause problems. "If you eat in a restaurant you have to be pretty direct and ask questions ... you have to say that if you cat nuts, for instance, it could kill you."

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Women jockeys fail punter in long run

After a decade, gambler looks set to

lose chance of £128,000 from novelty bet, reports Paul Wilkinson

decade ago seems doomed to fall at the starting line of the Grand National this weekend. Only a late run by a woman jockey can bring Ray Woodcock his long-prized £128,000

For a total stake of £400, he bet that by the millennium Cliff Richard would receive a knighthood, a British heavyweight would win a world title and a woman would ride a National winner. The first two came through, bringing him Ell,000. Lennox Lewis took the WBC heavyweight championship in 1992, and the Queen created Sir Cliff in her birth-

day honours four years ago. Unfortunately for Mr Woodcock, womeo jockeys have let him down. Their best result in the National was in 1994 when Rosemary Henderson. a 51-year-old amateur. came fifth on her own horse, the 100-1 outsider Fiddlers Pike. Last night, when tomorrow's 32 riders were declared, there was not a woman in sight.

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AN UNLIKELY bet made a Even the offer of a £50,000 share of his winnings to a trainer or owner prepared to give a woman jockey a chance failed to find a taker Under the event's rules, a

late replacement can be named up to 45 minutes before the start through injury or other emergency. Mr Woodcock, 55, a civil engineer from Halifax, West Yorkshire, said: "I'm desperate. At the time I placed the bet there were a few lady jockeys who were quite good and I thought it was only a matter of time. Time is running out and I really don't think there will be a lady jockey, but if someone takes up my offer it will certainly make the

race a lot more interesting." His wife, Gwen, 50, said: "He is a very good gambler who rarely loses because he is so scientific. We will all be watching and hoping on Saturday but I don't think it will come off in the end."

Ladbrokes gave Mr Wood-cock odds of 4-1 against Cliff Richard's knighthood, 10-1 against a British world heavyweight champion and 33-1 against a woman National winner in a combination of doubles and a treble. They agreed to pay if any two happened before 2000, and more if all three occurred. A spokesman said: "Nobody has got so



Woodcock: offered a £50,000 share of win

close on a novelty bet to winning this amount of money. This bet is uniquely diverse in the history of British off-course bookmaking."

Of the country's 214 licensed professional jump jockeys, only four are women, and only one, Sophia Mitchell, has ridden the 15 winners on British courses necessary to qualify for the National. She said: "1 would jump at the chance to ride in the National, but I don't think I will be holding

my breath waiting for an offer to come. I am riding at Hereford that afternoon and Wolverhampion in the evening, but if I did get an offer of a ride in the National I think I'd somehow get there. However, I don't think it is likely. Riders in the National will have ridden their mounts on a number of previous occasions and know them well. Barring a late injury, no one gets a National ride out of the blue." Mitchell, 26, who lives near

the racing stable centre of Lambourn in Berkshire, has ridden 39 winners, including one on the flat, since she turned professional four years ago. At 5ft lin and only 7st 12oz, many trainers regard her as too light for an endurance event such as the 41/2-mile Grand National. "Many trainers still believe we are not strong enough for riding over fences. I totally disagree. After all, women are among the best all over the world in other equine events like eventing and showjump-

Racing, pages 46,47



The only chance: Sophia Mitchell, with former Flat champion Frankie Dettori



the perfect

scrambled egg

The Saturday Times

National was off three years before history books say

BY RUSSELL JENKINS. NORTH WEST CORRESPONDENT

A UNIVERSITY librarian has upset historians of the Grand National with a claim that the famous steeplechase came under starter's orders. three years earlier than is thought. John Pinfold also claims that Captain Becher should be remembered as the winning jockey of the first race as well as for taking cover under the brook that bears

his name. The honours board for the Aintree course records the . first winner of the Grand National as Lottery on February 26, 1839. The race, then called the Grand Liverpool Steeplechase, is widely accepted as the first real National. It was preceded by two races at nearby

Maghull. However, Mr Pinfold, 46, librarian of Rhodes House. Oxford, begs to differ after spending six years on re-search at the British Library and the Picton Library in Liverpool. He claims in a book that the first Grand National took place three years earlier and that the two races at Maghull actually took place at

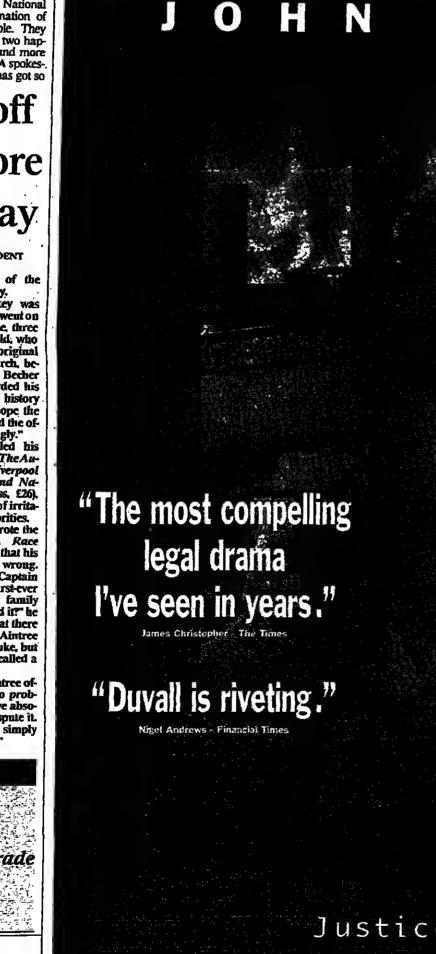
According to the revised version, the first Grand National was run on February 29, 1836, and was won by The Duke, owned by Mr Sirdefield, the landlord of the George pub in Crosby.

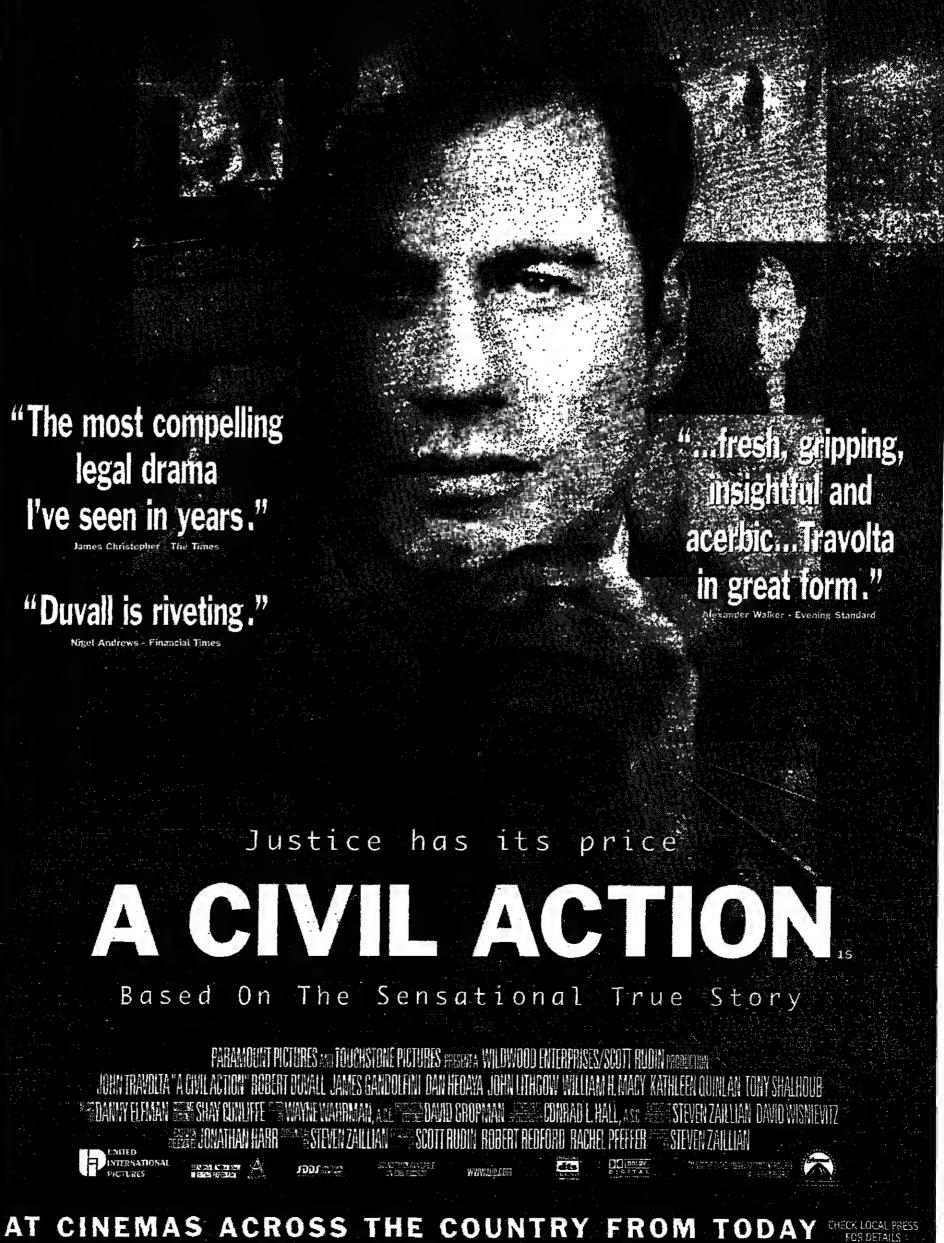
The winning jockey was Captain Becher, who went on to fame, if not fortune, three years later. Mr Pinfold, who says he used only original sources for his research, believes that Captain Becher should now be accorded his rightful place in the history books. He said: "I hope the aothorities will amend the official record accordingly."

The author unveiled his book, Gallant Sport, The Authentic History of Liverpool Races and the Grand Na-tional (Portway Press, £26), at Aintree to a flutter of irrita-

tion from those authorities. Reg Green, who wrote the accepted history. A Race Apart, is in no doubt that his rival's theories are wrong. "Don't you think if Captain Becher had won the first-ever Grand National his family would have mentioned it?" he said. "The facts are that there was a steeplechase at Aintree in 1836 won by The Duke, but no way could that be called a

Grand National." Nigel Payne, an Aintree of-ficial. said: "I have no prob-lem with 1839. We have absolutely no reason to dispute it. The early races were simply not Grand Nationals."







The Media at war. Secret of the Kosovo tape, trapped on the boarder, life in Belgrade

> Media Times, pages 38 - 41

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Blair forgets Scots have long memories

By JASON ALLARDYCE SCOTTISH POLITICAL REPORTER

IF THERE was anywhere less appropriate for a London-based politician such as the Prime Minister to pick a fight with Scottish nauonalists, MacKenzie could not think of it.

Few names in Scotland's bloody history eveke as much eniotion as Culloden where, in 17-16, the government's troops crushed Bonnie Prince Charthe slacobite rising. It sparked the dearance of thousands of Highlanders from their land and ended any prospect of Scotland becoming an independent country again.

That did not seem to worry Tony Blair and his entourage yesterday when they chose Culloden for his first Scottish parliament election visit.

Mr MacKenzie, who manages the Culloden visitor centre on the battlefield, was not afraid to admit that the PM's visit for a question and answers session in a local school had made his blood boil. "He would not be welcome here on the bantefield and I would hope he would re-spect that. My heart missed a

beat when I heard," he said. The name Culleden still has resonance across Scotland and particularly in the Highlands and this is probably an unthinking example of London Millbank control. They iust don't understand what it means to most Scots," A press

CULLODEN: A GAME OF ONE HALF

What was it? The last real battle fought on British soil, on April 16, 1746, between a well-drilled Hanoverian army under the Duke of Cumberland, portly second son of George III, and the ragged remains of the Highland force under Prince Charles Edward Stuart, who was too drunk or too scared to lead his

Where was It? On a dolorous moor three miles east of inverness, perfect flat ground for the disciplined army

What was It all about? Bonnie Prince Charlie, heavily romanticised but in truth an effete aristocrat raised in Italy, dreamed of restoring the Stuart throne usurped by William of Orange at the Boyne in 1690. He rallied the mainly Catholic Highlanders and marched them as far south as Derby where, ike Scottish forwards presented with a goal opportunity, they lost their bottle and turned back.

Who won? Well, the Scots didn't. They were put to flight in 40 minutes; they didn't stay to play the second half. Culloden marked the end of the old feudal Highland clan system, and "Butcher" Cumberland followed up his victory with a nuthless bout of ethnic cleansing, ordering his men to kill Highlanders and burn their homes. Bagpipes, Scots dress and other symbols of nationhood were mercilessly suppressed. Over the following century clan lands were given over to southern sheep farmers, driving thousands of Highlanders to the New World.

So why is Charlie such a remantic figure? The Scots have long memories and a genius for celebrating defeat; just look at the World Cup. There is an equal genius for recovery, in less than 50 years, Scotland had become a powerhouse of invention and European intellectual thought, with men such as Adam Smith, David Hume, James Watt, Sir Walter Scott and Robert Burns,

aide of Mr Blair could not understand what all the fuss was about. Speaking earlier in the RAF Lossiemouth where Mr Blair met families of Gulf servicemen, he said: "It's neither here nor there. You would have to have a long memory." The gaffe could be

shrugged off if it was an isolated incident.

The truth is that the normally sure-footed Premier has a problem with Scotland. His granny came from Glasgow's Govan, he was schooled in Fettes and a lot of people seem

thought he was doing the most effective job in government. However, his advisers and a mischievous press corps have a habit of tripping him up. Mr Blair did not do himself any favours during the 1997 general election campaign

when he compared the powers of the proposed Scottish parliament with an English parish council and said that sovereignry would rest with him. Deep down he seems also to resent the fact that, in spite of Labour honouring its commit-ment to deliver a Scottish par-

pretty ungrateful for. No sooner is the new powerhouse/parish council on the statute books than support for the SNP and Scottish independence is on the rise again. Mr Blair needs Scottish votes which return about 50 MPs to Westminster and he just wishes that they would give devolution a chance.

liament, the Scots seem a

While Downing Street in-sists that Mr Blair is the party's biggest asset in Scotland, , there is also a hostility among many voters who believe he should stay out of Scottish affairs. Neil MacKenzie, a taxi driver from Inverness where Mr Blair avoided doing a walkabout, said: "Donald Dewar says his party is not run by London Labour but,if so, why is Tony Blair up campaigning? Whars he doing here when there are more pressing problems like Kosovo

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The defeat of the Score at Culloden ended dreams of independence for 200 years

We were to blame for 1997 rout, say Tories

terday in original style - by is-

ty's leader in Scotland, admitted that the Tories' mistakes at the 1997 general election had led to their losing every West-minster seat they held there. The people told us what they thought," he said. "We got it wrong. They said we were out of touch. We didn't listen. Our decisions and policies had London stamped all over them, with little relevance or sympa-

then the party had listened and learnt, holding more than 500 meetings and hearing the views of 15,000 people. The re-sult was a radical set of proposals that had been "made in Scotland" rather than dictated from Conservative Central Office. A set of seven commitments included a pledge not to raise taxes, promises to abolish university tuition fees, to guarantee full-time nursery places for four-year-olds, introduce "modern matrons" into hospitals, and lift the beef-on-

the bone ban. The most radical proposal of all would take schools out of local authority control and hand them over to local school boards, answerable to their communities. Their members would include local councillors, head teachers and representatives of individual school boards, including parents. They would be funded directly

by the Scottish parliament. The Convention of Scottish

However, other education proposals, such as the abolition of tuition fees, are likely to draw more enthusiastic support, and place the Scottish Tories well to the left of the party in London.

Admitting that the party was now on a "policy tangent" from Lundon, Mr McLetchie said: 'That is what devolution

CORRECTION

Giles Radice is the Labour MP for Durham North, not Conscribed in the letters page of



THE Scottish Conservatives launched their manifesto yessuing an apology.

David McLetchie, the par-

thy for the needs of the Scot-

But he insisted that since

Local Authorities riposted that all the evidence suggested that while parents wanted to be consulted about their schools, they did not want to be involved in running them. To separate them off would be a hackward step," said a spokes-man. "It would lose out on the holistic approach that local authorities can provide."



McLetchie said party had listened and learnt

is all about. We are right to be different, we are in the vanguard of policies, but we believe they will strike a chord with our colleagues down south. Who knows, they might adopt some our ideas once they see them tried out here."

He repeated his controversial remark that "the jury is out on the United Kingdom" and pledged that the Conserva-tive Party in Scotland to make the new parliament work within the United Kingdom.

These are heady days for the Scottish Tories. Freed of the re-sponsibility that goes with power, or even the distant prospect of it, they feel able to say almost anything, even if it means abandoning ideas that were once sacrosanct. "The status quo is not an option," said

Home rule good for economy

independence would lead to a stronger Scottish comony, according to a report on the day the Scottish Pathonal Party Insuched its election manifesto. The David Prime Institute, a non-political think-lank, said that a devolved Edinburgh parliament was unlikely to strengthen the economy, the to its limited powers over economic policy.

only, due to its limited powers over economic policy.

The SRP manifesto focuses on health, choose those bousing and business. The party's commitment to holding a referendem on independence within the parhament's first term was last in a list of 14 priorities.

The party had promised to release a "twin track" manifesto outlining policies for a devolved and independent Stotland to let veters compare and contrast the two.

Quote of the day

The Tory mamiesto is the longest apology in history, the SNP used to be right wing and now they are left wing and with Labour you don't know if you are getting old Labour or new Labour But you can depend on the Liberal Democrats. With us you get what you see 2

NHS challenge

issued to Dewar Donald Dewar, the Scottish Mr Dewar Mar the lack of money available was con-februing to low morale

McLeish admits Loudon control

The Squitts Nament Party accused Labour of being controlled from London after the Scotlish Office mans at Henry Med Bib State in the BPC2s Melanight in the pressure from Jeachy Pacina, that Labour members of the Scotlish parliament would not include a different policy five from that of the party at Westarinster

AGENDA

Teday: Tony Blair will take part in a phone-in at Moray Firth radio this morning and open a new A&E ward at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee. Charles Kennedy will be the main speaker at the Liberal Democrats' press conference in Edinburgh. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will talk in Glasgow for Labour. The Green Party will taunch its manifesto in Edinburgh. Fiona Hyslop, SNP housing the party's housing policy in

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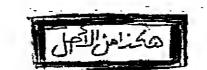
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Cot collapse caused death of baby girl

BY ALEX O'CONNELL

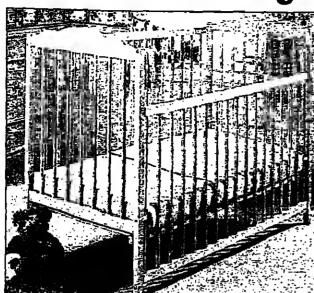
THE collapse of a cot from Mothercare was to blame for the death of a nine-month-old haby, an inquest has been fold. Alexandra Harvey choked to death when the side of her cot fell across her neck as she

played in it.
The girl was found unconscious by her mother, Catherine, who had left her to prepare breakfast. The baby had stopped breathing and was blue in the face, and her mother tried to revive her before the ambulance took her to hospital. The baby was transferred to a specialist unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, 50 miles away, and put on a life-support machine. Afer six days the doctors told the mother that there was no chance of recovery and the machine was switched off.

The cot. a £79.99 Epsom model, had been bought by Miss Harvey's parents when their daughter was pregnant. the inquest was told.

It was assembled by the child's father, Robert Smith, 25, who works in a timber yard. He carefully followed the instructions for putting together the flat-pack.

The inquest, in Colchester on Wednesday, heard from an expert witness - Laurence Liff, of ICE Ergonomics who told the coroner that the collapse of the cot had been nothing to do with way it had been assembled. He said it



The self-assembly cot conforms to safety standards

design fault that meant it was not strong enough to stay together under the weight of the my beloved daughter can hapnot strong enough to stay to-

Mothercare, which was represented by a lawyer at the inquest, was not called to give ev-

The coroner, Malcolm Weir, recorded a verdict of accidental death. "We are not here to apportion blame for the tragic incident but to find out the facts behind Alexandra's death. All I can do is let the manufacturers of the product know of the facts of this case and leave the ball in their park," Dr Weir said,

Miss Harvey, 21, said yesterwas principally because of a day, after the inquest: "I want pen to someone else's baby. "I wouldn't want any other

mother to got through the agony I have been through: her death has destroyed me." Miss Harvey added: "Bob knew what he was doing and

it was perfectly straightfor-ward, thad chosen that particular cot because Mothercare have a good reputation and the cot had a British Standards Institution Kitemark." The instructions on the best-

selling cot said it was suitable for children up to four years old or a weight of up to 18 kilograms (39lb). "Alex was much

said Miss Harvey, who has not received an apology from Mothercare.

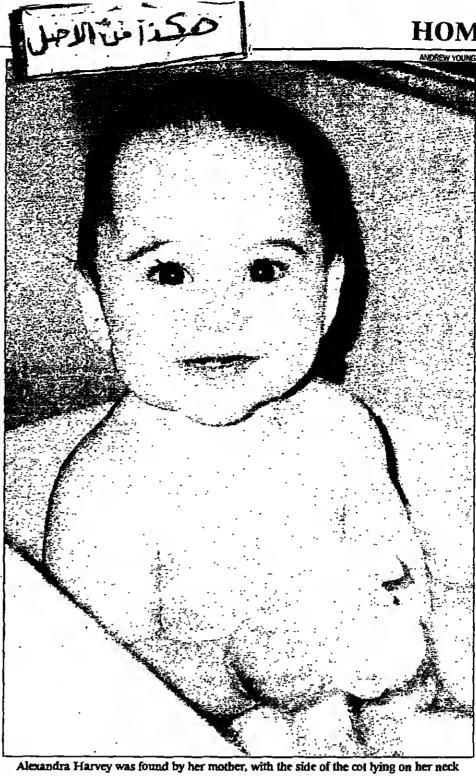
The Coroner's Officer, Ian Hunter, said yesterday: "The cot complied to the British standard. If the British standard isn't satisfactory, that's another matter."

Mothercare said in a statement: "The outcome of tests concluded that the circumstances surrounding the death of Alexandra Harvey appear to be consistent with the explanation that was provided by

her parents.
"It would seem that a series of unfortunate factors came together to produce a tragic result, the death of a baby, with no one person or factor to blame. Mothercare's thoughts are with Alexandra's parents at this very difficult time."

The firm said the cot conformed to safety standards and that trading standards of-ficers had been involved in the inquiry into the death and were taking no further action. Mothercare cots include ad-

vice to "check regularly that all bolts and fastenings are tight". As an added precaution since Alex's death-last November, Mothercare said it had added a "very visible" warning to the the mattress base of all new cots which reads:
"Warning — failure to tighten could cause the sides, ends or base to collapse. Your child may be injured by falling components or become trapped be-



NEWS IN BRIEF

Snowdon railway set for OK

Environmental groups are close to losing their fight to stop the rebuilding of the former Welsh Highland Railway through Snowdonia National Park. John Prescott. the Environment and Transport Secretary, said that he was minded to approve the 21-mile route, against the recommendation of a public inquiry inspector. He is asking the Flestiniog Railway Company for a detailed survey of rock faces near the Aberglaslyn tunnels to ensure that work does not cause rock falls. The route would run from Dinas, south of Caernarfon, through the national park to Porthmadog.

Cider with Dan

The pub featured by Laurie Lee in his book Cider with Rosie has been sold to a friend of the late author. Lee was a regular at the 300-year-old Woolpack Inn at Slad, Gloucestershire, which has been bought by Dan Chadwick.

Black stroke risk

Black people in Britain are twice as likely to have a stroke than white people, with Caribbean immigrants having the highest death rate. The reason is likely to be genetic or life-style, according to a report in the British Medical Journal.

Water firm fined

Sooth West Water has been fined £5,000 with £5,529 costs after admitting supplying water unfit for buman consumptioo. Cullompton magistrates were told that discoloured water was supplied to villages in mid Devon in October 1997.

The crying game

Courses for town criers have opeoed at a school in Crystal Palace, South London. The organisers expect a surge in demand for town criers because of the millennium celebrations. The students include a former sergeant major.

Phone bill revealed suicide wife was having an affair

By A CORRESPONDENT

A COMPANY director grieving for his wife, who had committed suicide, learnt from her mobile telephone bill that she had been having an affair. Ken Montgomery, 40. told an inquest yesterday that he had had no idea his wife, Carolette, was being unfaithful.

found a mystery number on her telephone bill. They traced it to a busi-nessman who, after being told that Mrs Montgomery, 41, had killed herself, admitted having an affair with her. He had seen her during busi-

ness trips in London. The inquest in Cardiff was told that Mr and Mrs Montgomery had been married for ten years and had The inquest was told that police a five-year-old son, Kenneth. They called in to investigate her death moved back to Britain from Dubai last year and bought a £400,000 house at Penarth, near Cardiff.

They had been due to spend a weekend sailing together in Ports-mouth, but Mrs Montgomery had stayed at home after an argument about money. Two days later, when Mr Montgomery returned, he had found his wife dead in a furne-filled

car in the garage. She had drunk half a bottle of whisky. Mr Montgomery said: "I just

couldn't understand why she had done it. We had a new £400,000 home and the night before I went to Portsmouth we had had a lovely night out with friends. I couldn't believe she had killed herself just because of the heated discussion we had had."

It was only later, after he received the mobile telephone bill, that he began to suspect there was another motive for his wife's death. "It was a

real kick in the guts when I found out about the affair. It was like my wife was leading a double life away from myself and our son. It has been traumatic and has deeply affected my son and myself. Now all I want to do is close the chapter and get on

with the job of bringing up Kenneth." Lawrence Addicatt, the Cardiff Coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide. After the hearing Detective Constable Mike Pitt. who investigated Mrs Montgomery's death, said that the same number kept cropping up on the mobile telephone bill. When I spoke to this chap it turned out that he had met Mrs Montgomery a couple of months previously and struck up a relationship with her.

"She took to phoning him constantly and they met a couple of times in London. He was obviously very fond of her and was horrified about what had happened to her."





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Fresh spy claims hit Zhu's **US** visit

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

FRESH allegations that China stole top-secret nuclear weap-ons research from the United States in order to improve Beijing's neutron bomb placed a new strain on an already tense visit to the US by Zhu Rongji. the Chinese Prime Minister.

The new spying scandal, the second in as many months, came as China and the US struggled to clinch a trade deal that would pave the way for Beijing's entry into the World Trade Organisation.

In 1996 US intelligence sources reported information from a trusted Chinese agent who said that the Chinese intelligence service was boasting that vital US weapons data had been obtained and applied to China's neutron bomb programme. The spy said the secret research had been leaked in 1995.

DISSIDENT ARREST

Beijing: With an occrring instinct to do the wrong thing at the wrong time, Chinese police detained a dissident for "endangering state security" just as Zhu Rongji, the Prime

Minister, was arriving

in the US (James Pringle writes). The Information Centre of Homan Rights in Hong Kong said that Fu Shen, a human rights activist based in Shaanxi province, had intended to pay respects at the grave of Ho Yaobang, a moderate commun in advance of the tenth anniversary of Hu's

death on April 15.

The White House has hitherto maintained that there is no evidence of Chinese nuclear espionage during the Clinton presidency, but The New York Times reported that Sandy Berger, now the US National Security Adviser, was told of the possible new theft of material relating to neutron bomb production in April 1996.

The new scandal could not

come at a more embarrassing time for Mr Zhu and President Clinton as they attempt to paper over issues as America's bulging trade deficit with China, human rights violations and allegations of illicit Chinese funding for the 1996 Clinton presidential campaign. The two leaders were due to attend an informal dinner together last night.

In a welcome speech to the Chinese leader yesterday, Mr Clinton pointedly referred to the "differences" between the United States and China. In response, Mr Zhu said he saw no area of disagreement that could not be settled through "friendly consultations".

The fresh spying charges emerged as Chinese and US of-ficials attempted to broker a deal that would prepare the way for China's admission to the WTO, which has been Beijing's goal for the past 13 years. US officials said yesterday that a full agreement now seemed "unlikely".

The neutron bomb, developed by the US in the 1970s, uses enhanced radiation to kill people while leaving buildings unaffected. China is believed to have built a neutron bomb in the 1980s, using research sto-len from the US, but found it defective during tests. The new allegations suggest that the information stolen in 1995 had allowed China to iron out problems in their bomb design.



Solitary Guitarist, by Vasili Perov, one of the works stolen from the Russian State Museum in St Petersburg this week in what police believe is part of a campaign of art theft to order from major Russian collections

Thieves plunder Russian museums to order

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

THE theft of two paintings from the Russian Museum in St Petersburg this week is part of a new trend of stealing to order, experts believe. Solitary Guitarist and a sketch for the painting Troika, both by Vasili Perov, a 19th century artist, were taken in a dawn raid oo Toesday.

"There has been a surge of interest in art and antiques among the new rich in the past decade." said Aleksandr Shevchuk deputy head of the cultural and historical crimes department of the Moscow police. Thefts to order are always extremely difficult to uncover because so many people are involved."

Art theft io St Petersborg alone has skyrocketed in the past few years, from 18 crimes in 1992 to 178 in 1997. Io 1994 foor men broke into the St Petersburg Library and took \$300 million (£188 millioo) worth of manuscripts including medieval Enropean, ancient Chinese, Moogolian, Tibetao and Hebrew scripts.

Twelve people were arrested in connection with the crime which was believed to have been ordered by an Israeli collector, though he was never identified. Vladimir Gusev, the

director of the Russian Museum, believes the paintings stolen this week were ordered by a private collector, but says the works are so well known it will not be possible to display them. The best thiog be can do is to bring the things back

anooymously," he said. Russia's museums and galleries lack the funds for adequate anti-theft systems. Only the Hermitage. housed in the winter palace of the tsars in St Petersburg, has invested in Western-style security.

the rapes took place between

4am and 5am, after he had fin-

ished a night shift polishing floors in Manhattan sky-

"He was always smiling,

laughing and giggling," said

Stephanie Wright, 48, a night-

shift secretary at a law firm

where he worked. "He was

Howard Safir, the police

commissioner, said Mr Jones

had raped one mother in front

cians, have been arrested dur-

sweet. He made me laugh."

SUMMARY

'Human fly' sues TV show over trap

New York: A Norwegian daredevil known as the "Human Fly is suing a television programme for \$2.25 million (£1.4 million) for betraying him to police after he parachured off the World Trade Centre. Thor Alex Kappfiell was arrested last month after completing an unprecedented hat-trick of city skyscrapers. Earlier jumps were from the Empire State

and Chrysler buildings.

Mr Kappfjell. 32, alleges that the syndicated television show Extra, which had bought videotape of his stunts, delayed payment and told police where he was so it could film his arrest. "Police marched in,

and Extra was there shooting it," Mr Kappfiell said. When he asked the producer to put up bail, he was allegedly told: "I do not pay criminals. Mr Kappfjell walked free six days later, having agreed to do a week's community service.

Shift to right

Klagenfurt: Jörg Haider, leader of the far-right Freedom Party, was elected Governor of Carinthia, the Austrian APA agency said. The party won 42 per cent of the state's vote in elections last month. (AFP)

Amnesty denied

Cape Town: South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission denied amnesty to the killers of Chris Hani, leader of the Communist Party and seen, until his death in 1993, as a future President.

Tehran release

Tehran: German businessman Helmut Hofer, 57, sentenced to death for having sexual relations with an franian woman, is to be released pend-ing a final decision. He has served two years in jail. (AFP)

Timor backlash

Dili: Thousands of anti-independence militiamen, some accused of massacres, have vowed to step up their fight against separatists who want East Timor to break away from Indonesia. (AP)

Rebel shoot-out

Freetown: Thirty-one people civilians, in fighting between Sierra Leonean rebels and Guinean troops of the Ecomog intervention force near Kambia, it was reported. (AFP)

US jets hit Iraq

Washington: American F18 aircraft have bombed a missile site in southern Iraq. The US Central Command said the missile site on the al-Faw peninsula was a threat to shipping traffic in the Gulf. (AFP)

Missile threat

Delhi: Beijing's Military Acaderny has recommended China redeploy medium- and longrange missiles against India after its nuclear tests last year, it was reported. (Reuters)

Gun law targeted

Boston: Gun club patrons are suing for the right to shoot at images of real people, including Hitler, during target practice, an action banned for some clubs by a new law. (AP)

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'Bronx rapist' confesses after police kill suspect

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

POLICE have arrested the suspected "Bronx rapist" whose attacks on as many as 51 women transformed the political landscape in New York.

Isaac Jones, 38, a night office cleaner, reportedly confessed after he was arrested outside a pawn shop where his girlfriend had tried to get cash for jewellery taken from one of

the rapist's victims. In February, during the massive manhunt for the serial rapist, four Street Crimes Unit officers killed Amadou Diallo, an unarmed West African immigrant, in a hail of gunfire, provoking daily demonstra-tions and throwing into doubt the political future of Rudolph Giuliani, the city's Mayor.

Mr Jones has been charged with four rapes, but is believed to have assaulted as many as 51 women in 39 separate incidents over the past six years.

Police made the arrest after a woman walked into a pawn shop in the South Bronx with jewellery stolen from two victims of a double rape on Valentine's Day. Because she gave a false name, police stationed a female undercover agent in the shop to await her return. When she came back, two months later, a waiting squad swooped on Mr Jones as he sat outside in a car. He was identified from the same police sketch that bore a superficial resemblance to Mr Diallo.

Mr Jones's home. Police questioned Mr Jones for hours before he confessed. telling detectives that he started raming women because he was himself raped by a

stranger when aged seven. Co-workers described him charming and were shocked to learn that many of

of her child. This is one of the highest numbers of serial shot dead about a mile from rapes," he said. More than 1,000 demonstra-tors, including Hollywood stars and Washington politi-

> ing protests against the shooting of Mr Diallo. The furore has put in doubt a possible New York bid by Mr Giuliani for a US Senate seat against Hillary Clinton next year.

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Furore not my fault, says dancer

Viviana Durante is trying to mend fences after a flare-up at the

Royal Ballet, Dalya Alberge reports

VIVIANA DURANTE, the balleri-na who apparently stormed out of rehearsals with the Royal Ballet and refused to dance with her partner, Bruce Sansom, yesterday attempted to salvage her career with the company.

Sues

) right

The Raider P

The parts ag

backla

Denying that she was to blame for rift. Durante insisted that she had not screamed but cried when she fell during a complex duet, and that it was Sansom who had refused to continue to dance with her. The ballerina's version of events contradicted reports that she had exploded with rage during rehearsals for Manon and pulled out of the company's Japanese tour. She is said to have insulted Sansom, dismissing him as unfit to partner her even though they have danced together many times. Insiders say

that he is placed and gentlemanly. The Royal Ballet, whose school Durante joined at the age of 10, had issued an unusually strong statement claiming that she had "withdrawn from the Japanese tour because of irreconcilable differences". The company used the same form of words in 1995 when Sir Anthony Dowell, the Royal Ballet director. sacked the Hungarian-born Zoltan Solymosi, who had been brought in

to partner Darcey Bussell.

Although there was widespread disbelief at the latest news, several people described Durante - an Italian-born performer adored by her audiences as one of the world's leading dancers - as a hothead whose passion on stage has tended to spill over into real life. Adding to the physical and mental pressures of being a world-class ballerina is the fact that her years at the top are now running out: she is 31.

It did not go unnoticed yesterday - that she was due to perform Anastasia, a ballet about a neurotic woman, in New York with the American Ballet Theatre in May. Manon, which she was to have performed with the Royal Ballet in Japan, is the story of a woman whose impetuous character brings about her

"It was Bruce who said he would not dance with me, not the other way around," Durante told the London Evening Standard yesterday. 'I would have been happy to go on the tour." She did, however, admit she had become upset after Sansom had let her fall heavily but that

she had cried rather than shouted. She added: "I didn't pull out of the tour. After the row I had with Bruce, I had agreed to dance with him again but obviously Sir Anthony wasn't happy and took my

Manon shows away from me."
It is not the first time that her discontent with the company has emerged: there have been reports over the years that she was critical of its running and wished to advance her career elsewhere.

Victoria Todd, former director of the Council for Dance Education and Training and current director of the National Campaign for the Arts. expressed sadness at the news. "Nerves are raw," she said, referring to recent months in which the Royal Ballet was facing strike action and an uncertain future. "It was only a matter of ome before something like this happened." She added that Durante's departure would be "a great loss" to the company. "Everything must be done to keep her."

Christopher Bannerman, the chairman of Dance UK, the organisation representing the dance pro-fession, said: "It is very sad when these things happen.

Concern was voiced yesterday about the possible effect on Durante's career. Relatively little has been heard of Solymosi since he parted company with the Royal Ballet. It was reported at the time that he had fallen out with Sir Anthony after criticising the choreography. As with Durante, the Hungarian's "volatile" dancing style was said to be matched by his off-stage



Viviana Durante and Bruce Sansom in the Royal Ballet's production of The Dream: the partnership may now be over

Disney bows to Catholic pressure

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A FILM starring Matt Damon and Ben Affleck as subversive angels trying to sneak back into Heaven has been rejected by the Walt Disney studio as potentially offensive to Catholics.

Dogma features a descendant of esus who works in an abortion clinic, and Alanis Morissette, the pop singer, in the role of God. The script, which also depicts Joseph and Mary having sex, was condemned yesterday by the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights as higoted and

disturbing.
The film was shown recentl: to
Disney executives who deemed it
"inappropriate" for the company as it seeks to re-establish its "family friendly" status after years of attacks from religious

groups. The decisioo is a blow to Miramax, the Disney subsidiary that triumphed on Oscar night with Shakespeare in Love and Life is Beautiful. Having champiooed Dogma as a well-meaning satire on religion. the New York-based company is now expected to pay up to \$11 million to buy the film outright, even though it reportedly cost only \$5 million to make. "We intend to work with a distributor that shares our visioo of the film
... as broad entertainment." Harvey Weinstein, the Miramax chairman, told The New York

Disney has in recent years fallen foul of both Catholic and Baptist groups, often because of cutting edge Miramax releases among them Priest, the British film about a gay Catholic pastor that was released in the US in 1994 to a chorus of pickets and protests. Disney is also accused of operating "gay-friendly" employment policies.



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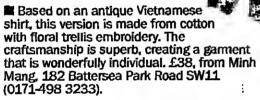


"Using varying shades of off-white in panels, squares, stripes and blocks is, as far as I'm concerned, the dernier cri of chic"



Objects of desire

Chanel's new powder looks fantastic on the dressing table. Housed In a rectagular opaque glass bottle, the brush cleverly twists on to the top, creating an elegant blusher brush. £20, Powder Light by Chanel, available from department stores (0171-493 3836).





The power of posh paint

f you have a talent for extravagance, you will know how versatile this particular gift can be. Whereas dexterity at the harp does not necessarily translate into nimble fingers at the Nintendo, extravagance can leap from one retail category to another with the ease and speed of nits in a nursery class.

Six months ago, when I moved into my first flat, I knew nothing of the existence of designer paint. I could recite the name of every major store in New Bond Street but I had never heard of Paint Library.

In this pre-diluvian state I bought a five-litre tub of B&Q white matt emulsion and saw no reason why I should not splash it across the length and breadth of my flat, First, how-ever, it was necessary to strip the floral 1970s wallpaper coat-ed in baby-blue emulsion, and by the time this was complete I had seen the light.

Today I would no sooner do a B&Q whitewash than fill my freezer with economy burgers. drink Asti Spurnante or laugh

at Jim Davidson's jokes. White paint, indeed any paint, now presents itself as an ethical dilemma. They could feature it on The Moral Maze and it would not seem out of place. Can it ever, in any circumstances, be right to spend £24 on a 2.5-litre tub of paint when you can buy the same amount of Dulux for £12.99?

You can reason that designer paint is very new Labour - No 10 has reportedly been redeco-rated in Paint Library (£24 for 2.5 litres of matt emulsion); you can tell yourself that Kylie Minogue has Sophie Rose on her walls (Paint Library again). Yet when the price rises above Farrow & Ball's £17.99 for 2.5 litres, and the company address says Chelsea, the conscience gives a twang.

ddly. I felt no such turmoil choosing a sofa from The Conran Shop rather than Ikea. But then the thing about paint is that it is meant to be cheap. Read any interior-design book and it will reassure you that "paint is an inexpensive way to transform a room", and though the moment I read this I knew it couldn't be strictly true - nothing is cheap if youreally put your mind to it the mantra has lodged in my

Whenever I flip through a John Oliver swatch book (£23,21 for a 2.5-litre tin), 1 feel as if I am wrestling with the Devil. I want to side with the angels and buy Crown Expressions but my dreams are now coloured in Hornblende, Hunter Dunn and Chalcedony all from Paint Library.

I'm not convinced that designer paint is really any different from any other kind, and I have still less confidence in my ability to deploy it to best effect. When I enter the more fashionable paint boutiques I feel like a 15-stone woman wandering into Gucci.

Is there any point paying pots of money for designer paint? **Grace Bradberry reports**

Rula Theocharis, a freelance colour consultant, insists that the more expensive paints are generally better. "For exam-ple, red is one of the most difficult colours to reproduce and with, say, John Oliver, you have a purer colour."

On the other hand, I've read an interview with a designer who said that he always used Dulux, and that success could be achieved with any massmarket range provided one had colour sense. But colour sense is exactly what interior designers are selling, so offering to use cheap paint may well be the equivalent of personal shoppers who charge £500, then take you to Miss Selfridge. No doubt even this

chap has lapses of ascetic in-tent and splashes John Oliv-er's Imari Red across his walls in the dead of night.

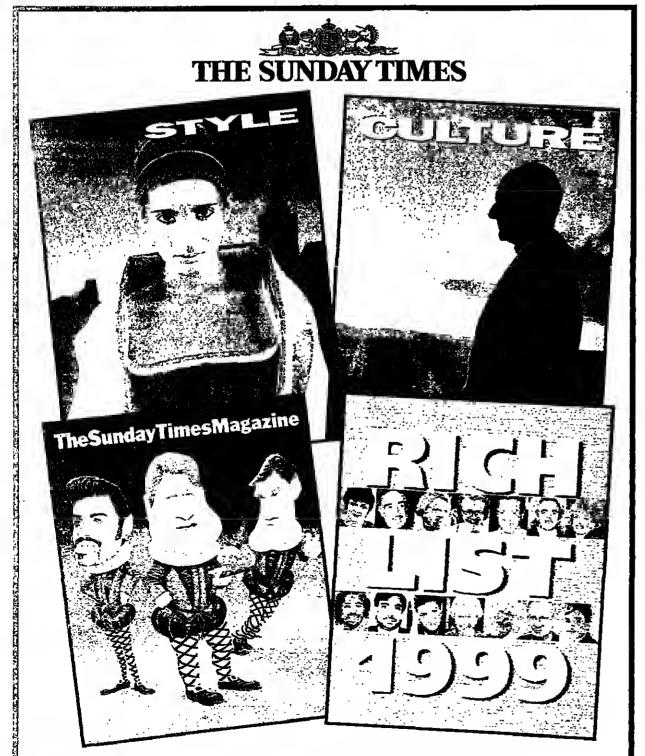
In truth, though, the red argument is a red herring where I'm concerned. I will not be putting Salern Red on my walls (Lawrence T. Bridgeman's Old Village Paint range, £14.95 a quart), nor Fired Earth's Better Class Red.

Using varying shades of offwhite in panels, squares, stripes and blocks remains, as far as I'm concerned, the dernier cri of chic. It also negates the need to match tones and "play" with clashing colours. But there is a whole world of nuance, a thousand social dangers, in the colour white.

In the absence of any innaic feeling for colour. I am avoiding Laura Ashley's Country White simply because of the name, redolent as it is of idyllic cottage interiors tucked away in edge-of-town housing estates. I have also given in when it comes to Farrow & Ball's Off-White, Old White, Wall White and Lime White, which all look fawn to me.

Instead, after six months of agonising, a long and distress-ing lilac phase, and the acquisition of approximately 20 different colour charts (Zoffany, Sanderson, Cole & Marston & Langinger, Annie Sloan, Auro, Dulux Trade. Macpherson), I am now fixaied on the 24 shades of Off White produced by Papers & Paints. No other paint company will now do. Distressingly. it is also the most expensive range I have so far discovered.

Jane Shilling is on holiday



MAGAZINE Self-destruct: Philip Norman on the Malvolios of our age

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Channel 5's Kirsty Young





Holiday reporter Mary Nightingale Kate Thornton of Top of the Pops



Send in the clones

re they cloning peo-ple already? I ask be-cause Sybil Ruscoe. the sports reporter recruited to Channel 4's cricket team, looks the image of Channel 5's news presenter Kirsty Young, who's a lot like Mary Nightingale, who's just a gunk of hair gel removed from the DJ Zoe Ball, who's a mere half an eyelid cheekier than the new Top of the Pops presenter Kate. Thornton, Television seems like an endless screening of an old B-movie called Invasion of the Baby-Faced

It's cruel, it's trivial, but in a visual medium the jobs — for men and women - inevitably go with the looks. Outside certain troublespots, the aesthetics of television admit the full diversity of the female form, from the dishevelment of Ground Force's Charlie Dimmock to the poise of Carol Vorderman and the maturity of Anne Robinson. Only the last bastions - news, sport and pop music - are the territory of the Baby-Faced Blondes.

The BFBs have become a kind of media elite corps, deLookalike baby-faced blondes have become television's elite corps — deployed by broadcasting bosses to ease the most desperate situations, says Celia Brayfield

situations. Broadcasting bosses fear that nobody over the age of ten watches TOTP, nobody under the age of 50 watches cricket, nobody watches news unless there's a war on and many people can't watch Channel 5 anyway. They believe that everyone will watch a BFB. in a hearts-and-minds bat-

tle, when a BFB goes in there will be a hiatus while the enemy faffs about marvelling that she can walk and read the Autocue at the same time. It worked when John Major put his Government's BFB, Virginia Bonomley, in charge of dismantling the health service, and it's now working like a dream with Sybil Ruscoe.

Old farts of all ages were combat-ready once MCC had been dragged doddering and ployed in the most desperate harrumphing into the age of

equal opportunities and Channel 4 had captured the rights to the Test match. Channel 4 sent in the BFB and the enemy fell about, drivelling over her ash-blonde hair, fantasising that she will "scamper in her flowing white dress to gather the ball hit by her hero", nodding tolerantly when she confessed that she had never actually played cricket, and drafting lucrative contracts to wave under her pert little nose. Would a male reporter with

similar credentials be lauded with such guff? I don't think so. It can be years before this bedazzlement wears off - as it seems to have done at last with Channel 5s BFB, Kirsty Young, whose interviews were criticised, in a recent Independent Television Commission report, for being fact-free fluff dressed up as current affairs.

I intend no disrespect to the BFBs themselves. They can't help their looks — give or take a few highlights — nor can they help the medium's hiring policies. In accusing television producers of sexism, I am singing such an old song that the majority of women in work today probably rate it as an ancient folk melody. The differ-

ence now is that news chiefs

are not trivialising women by

hiring female reporters appar-

are trivialising themselves. The contrast between the BFBs and the women whose actions make the news is un-missable. With the American Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spelling out Nato's peace terms, it seems ludicrous that no woman of her age could get a job reporting on her speeches. No woman of Clare Short's appearance would be allowed to introduce the footage of her among the Kosovan refugees, nor would a woman resembling the tennis player Amelie Mauresmo be hired to tinkle the BBC tea-cups during Wimbledon. All this looks bad. It's time to be brave, chaps. Drop your fetish for BFBs and send out real

women to chase your ratings.

ently modelled on Barbie; they



The latest BFB presenter is Sybil Ruscoe, who is to report on the cricket for Channel

Hacked off

UNDERNEATH

JOE JOSEPH

ets to a musical a couple of nights ago. which is something I can definitely recommend if (Hey. do you mind not slurping your coffee so noisily while you're reading this? It's so off-putting) . . . if you enjoy the razzle-dazzle of a show like (And could you turn that radio down! I can barely hear myself think) ... of a show such as Chicogo, and you don't mind your evening being regularly interrupted by profichlat

enough to drown out even Ethel Merman. Obviously, this makes theatregoing especially rewarding if you happen to be an ear, nose and throat specialist, because the audience is full of your potential patients.

Maybe these people have mistaken the theatre for Harley Street consulting rooms and imagine that the entertainment on stage is just a posher version of those three-year-old magazines you get given to pass the time in the waiting areas of less fancy doctors. Or perhaps the coughing is some sort of code.

like Morse three cooghs and a nose blow mean "i'll

bet the buder did it. The only other explanation must be that if you turned to the theatre and concert listings in this newspaper, and used a high-grade microscope to scrutinise those little boxes advertising each show. you'd find a subliminal message in between the critics' quotes of "Hilarious" or "Steal a ticket, just make sure you go!" which reads: "Do you have the sort of scary cough that sounds as if alien beings are currently hatching inside your throat? Then go

see this show tonight" You innocently believe that you're just flicking through the entertainments listings, but as soon as you close the newspaper you find yourself in a trance, involuntarily picking up the phone and dialling a theatre (You: "Hello. I'd like two seats for to-night's show." Box Office:

"Have you got one of those hacking coughs that ruin the performance for anyone sitting within 12 rows of you?" You: "Actually, I do." Box Office: "In that case I'm going to have to seat you in the middle of the most expensive and crowded section of the auditorium. May t request that you do absolutely nothing between now and curtain rise to ameliorate your cough?").

Harold Pinter has grown so fed up with noisy audiences puncturing his work that he has just banned the sale of sweets at the Palace Theatre, Watford, where he is currently directing the world premiere of Simon Gray's new play The Late Middle Classes.

A notice in the foyer reads: "Because of the delicate atmosphere of this play, the director has suggested that the sale of confectionery being consumed during the performance may cause distraction to the audience."

And Pinter's not the only one who's mad at the coughers and the wrapper-rustlers. Kurt Masur recently walked out halfway through conducting Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony at New York's Lincoln Centre.

Its message is so human, so full of pain. so full of beauty, and we tried our best." Masur complained. after throwing down his baton "but with the uncontrolled coughing in the audience. I felt more and more that no-

splashed out £72 for two dress-circle fick- body could concentrate. So I left, I just wanted to make people aware that they were disturbing the process of listening."
It's not that much better when concert au-

diences wait until a movement ends to break into a cough. Actually, it's a little sinister. Have these people consciously been restraining themselves until then? Or do they just like to seize the opportunity, when it's available, to clear their throats? If it's the latter, do they also make a point of relieving them selves every time they happen to pass a loo?

Mobile phones are the ocwest curse in the stalls. When the Juilliard Quartet performed in Guangzhou a few weeks ago, the recital had to be stopped because chaos had erupted as mobile phones and pagers chirruped like songbirds through the auditorium, and as the concertgoers took it into their heads to stroll around in search of better seats.

Now, at the theatre where Chicago was showing, the far-sighted managers had come up with a novel way of diverting your

anger in the £36 seats from the surrounding chorus of coughing. Their solution was based on the "If you want to take your mind off your worries, wear tight shoes principle, whereby you concentrate so intently on your aching feet that you forget

about everything else. The idea they came up with was very simple but effective. It was red plastic binoculars. These binoculars, which have the same, Nasa-verified magnifying power as a milk bottle. cost 40p to hire hour for hour, this is almost the same cost as a car rental.

They were obviously hoping that the people seated in the dress circle would be so incensed at not having been warned that the show was being performed by teeny pig-mies — and bence required the use of binoculars - that they wouldn't even notice all the noise

around them. First theatre manager: "And to make sure the punters all get really mad we'll fix it so that the only coins that will release these binoculars from their

mooring are two 20p pieces."

Second manager: "Could you say that again? I couldn't bear over the coughing." If anything, cinemas are worse. They've been overtaken by people who can't afford proper apartments at London's ridiculous prices, so have settled for teeny, kitchenless flats and treating their cinema seat like a dining room. It's now common to see members of the audience passing guacamole dips, ketchup and pepper mills from row lo row. There could be an enterprising way for-

ward. A recent survey of doctors found that the majority of them felt they deserved a free upgrade on flights if they agreed, when checking in, to help out in a mid-air emergency. "Being taken for granted sticks in the throat," said a man at the British Medical Association. So why don't theatres offer to upgrade ear, nose and throat specialists from the back of the upper circle to the dress circle scats if they agree to unstick a few of the the-

atregoers' throats during the show? OK, I've finished for this week. Thanks for restraining yourselves. I appreciate it. You can go back to slurping your coffee now.

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... at least in Britain, if not

Europe, says Anatole Kaletsky

esterday was a crucial day in the economic histories of Britain and Europe. The announcement of a half-point rate cut by the European Central Bank was the Frankfurt bank's first monetary action since it took control of economic policy in the II countries of euroland.

By acting more boldly than expected, the bank tried 10 shake off the image of compla-cency from which it has suffered since its failure to respond to the worldwide financial crisis and the economic downturn in Germany lasi autumn. But whether yesterday's move lays the foundations for a healthy economic recovery in Europe will depend largely on wheth-er Wim Duisenberg, the bank's President, admits to a new monetary philosophy in

the weeks ahead. In Britain, too, there is more uncertainty than usual about the consequences of vesterday's rate cut. The Bank of England may have taken a risk by cutting interest rates for the sixth rime in seven months, on this occasion by a quarter point. The British rate cut was announced against a background of buoyani car sales, accelerating house pric-es and record levels of remortgage borrowing, as householders lock into borrowing rates at the undreami-of low of just 5 per cent or so over ten years. I welcome the Bank's decision

to add more monetary fuel to an econony that may al-ready be set for take-off. In my view, sticking rigid-ly to an arbitrary is quite a inflation target is less vital than trying to reduce unemployment further by boosting economic growth. But in terms of the Bank's strict anti-

inflationary mandate, yesterday's decision may well seem mistaken if it becomes the catalyst for a new beem in housing, consumer spending and financial services. That, in turn, could prompt panic reaction from the Bank and the markets, generating expectations that Briosh interest rates will soon rise

and push up the pound. These predictions are, of course, just personal intui-tions. Plenty of economists take the opposite line, issuing warnings that industry is still stuck in recession and that interest rates must be cut to the continental level before British companies can have a fair chance to compete. Rather than argue with my fellow economic seers about our respective readings of the statistical entrails, I want to devote the rest of this space to a broader question which, to judge by my postbag, seems very perplexing to non-economists, including politicians

and businessmen. Why do t get so excited about apparently ony shifts in monetary policy, like the ones announced vesterday? The simple answer is that a "mere" quarter or half-point is proportionally quite a lot when interest rates are as low as they are today. Yesterday's European rate cut reduced the cost of servicing a euro loan by almost a fifth and, in theory, raised the value of European assets, such as shares and property, by almost as much.

The second, more profound, reason for worrying about small changes in interest rates relates to business psychology and monetary dogma. If a change in interest rates is presented in a dogmatic monetarist framework, as a one-off event motivated purely by inflation or money supply statistics and unrelated to business conditions and unemployment, it may indeed be dismissed as irrelevant. But if a small monetary move is perceived as a sign of commutmeni to steady economic growth and a harbinger of further action, it can trigger a much more powerful effect. The central bank's action

can be seen as a national "insurance policy" against recession, to quote the term used by Alan Greenspan, the Chair-man of the US Federal Reserve Board, in the midst of last year's global financial crisis. The Fed cut interest rates by only three quarters of a point, but this modest action had a huge worldwide impact, because of the perception that Mr Greenspan would go on cuning until the threat of a

global recession disappeared. The European bank, and before it the Bundesbank, has adopted exactly the opposite approach. Even when it has cut interest rates, it has always pretended that its monetary decisions had nothing to do with unemployment or the threat of recession. It has

insisted that there would be no further action, even if A quarter the economy continued to slump. Again last night, point cut Mr Duisenberg said that the large rate cut was delot when signed to preclude speculation about rates are any further easing and added that the bank "is not follow-

so low ing a counter-cycli-cal policy". Such protestations of indifference to the state of the economic cycle have naturally diminished the beneficial effects of European rate cuts. It was hardly surpris-ing that the euro fell in the markets with almost every

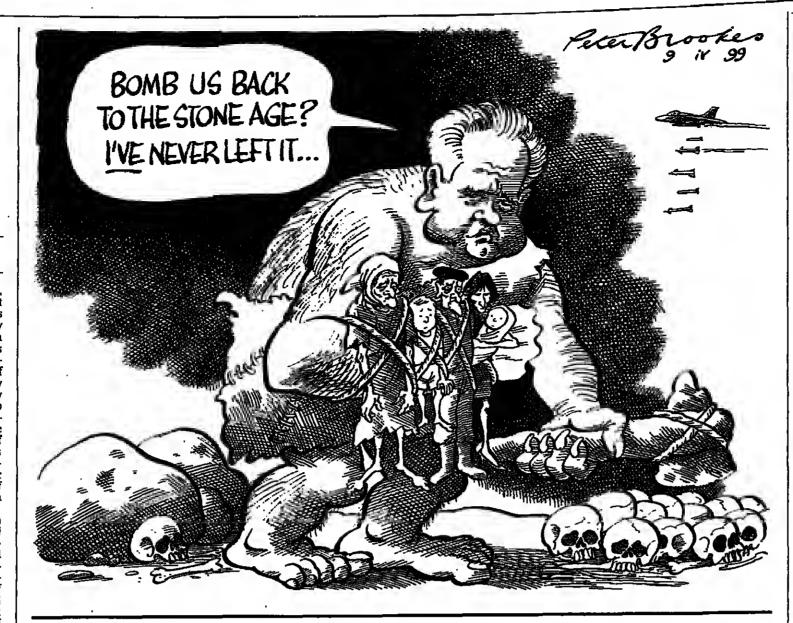
word Mr Duisenberg spoke.

his observation leads

me to another question about interest rates that readers often ask. How can I say, as I did above, that an interest rate of 5.25 per cent may be too low for Britain. while insisting that continental interest rates may need to be cut even below 2.5 per cent? This is only puzzling if you ignore the role of interest rates in managing demand. Europe is stuck in deep recession with vast unemployment. Britain is pulling out of a brief economic slowdown with a much higher proportion of its people in jobs. Europe needs exceptionally low interest rates to pull it out of recession, while Britain requires roughly neutral rates. comparable to those in America, to sustain adequate growth without inflation.

There is no paradox here, unless you think interest rates and monetary policy should have nothing to do with managing demand and countering economic cycles. If you think that, perhaps you should apply to be the next President of the European bank.

anatole.kaletsky@the-times.co.



Will they never learn?

nother middle way has not worked. The Great Bombing Pretence is collapsing in Kosovo, as it was bound to collapse. Foreign policy is revealed not as focus-grouped, glamor-ous kid-machismo but as something that kills people. Nato's bombing adventure in Kosovo looked good for a day or two. But it was always cynical and ill thought-out, Now, with generals on both sides of the Atlantic screaming no, the "imma-culate coercion" of the cruise missile

war must be followed by the real In the United States this week f have heard almost no support for Nato's belief that "bombing alone" would win security for Kosovo's Albanians. I hear only Lyndon Johnson's notorious Vietnam quote, "I never felt that this war would be won from the air". Yesterday's New York Times/CBS poll was clear. Will airstrikes slop President Miloscoie? Sixty per cent say no Will sevic? Sixty per cent say no. Will America send ground troops? Seventy-five per cent say yes. The 24 American ground attack helicopters being sent to Albania are the first swallows of an awesome summer. Last October Western diplomats told Mr Milosevic to give autonomy to Kosovo "or else". He was threatening no state, and perpetrating no greater evil than those being ignored by the West in the Caucasus

ing. So now h is "or else". Europe thinks it goes to war when diplomacy has failed. America thinks it goes to war when Europe has failed. It is grimly intriguing that the American pro-war lobby is made up of mostly younger people who do not remember (or have forgotten) the Vietnam escalation. The issue, once again, is not the plausibility of the operation but the esteem of Uncle Sam and confidence in America's military omnipotence. As for whether a Kosovan war will be anything but an American one, you can hear, read and talk about this subject from dawn to dusk and not hear a word about British involvement - beyond the complaint that "America is having to rescue Europe from

or condoned as a fait accompli in

Bosnia. But great men had said "or

else", and the networks were watch-

another of its messes". The collapse of "bombing alone" this past formight has been spectacular. The misreading of Mr Milosevic by Nato deserves to rank with Gallipoli and Pearl Harbor in the annals of mititary incompetence.

Nato's leaders are treading the

path that led to insanity in Vietnam

Bill Clinton and Tony Blair could not have been more clear in the objective. It was to "stop the killing and ethnic cleansing in Kosovo and force Milosevic to grant the region partial autonomy". The bombing has achieved the opposite. By targeting cities, factories and bridges, and hitting enough houses to kill civilians (including, of all obscenities, native Kosovans in Pristina), the bombs have increased support

for the regime and made compromise less likely. Why leaders pursue strategies that so regularly fail (as this approach failed in Iraq) is for psychologists to answer. Mr Milosevic's response was exactly as predicted. racca with mands that he accept Nato troops on his soil and a promise that they would not be imposed, he had to judge whether that promise was

believable. He sensibly concluded that it was not. He urgently moved his formidable army into Kosovo, where until this week not a single bomber had been able to find it. In two weeks the Yugoslav leader cleared half the province of its Albanian population and, in grim Balkan fashion, treated perhaps hundreds of Albanian men as putative KLA fighters and shot them dead. Mr Milosevic is now in a position to offer a "monitored ceasefire" but with the Kosovo

Liberacon Army truly crushed. It

defies belief that anyone in London

or Washington thought bombing

alone would achieve any other

outcome. Nato spin-doctors are frantically trying to express "surprise" that Mr Milosevic moved so fast and acted so ruthlessly, and argue that bombing alone was always a long-term strategy, whatever that means. The American press hoots derision at such excuses. The Pentagon and the Ministry of Defence are known to have been scepoes about bombing from the start. In the nearest Washington comes to an official statement, "sources" this week admitted that there never was any coherence to bombing alone. As a

We have accomplished nothing." The policy is dead.
Whether Mr Milosevic would have behaved with the ruthlessness of the past two weeks without the

State Department official admitted:

bombing is, of course, horribly moot. What is certain is that before the arrival of Madeleine Albright, Robin Cook, Rich-ard Holbrooke and the world's most powerful bombs, Mr Milosevic was conducting a guerrilla war with the ruthless KLA, a group that nad scant local sui port until its cause

was "adopted" by Britain and others. The United Nations last week put the Albanian-Serb balance of atrocities at roughly even. After the arrival of the grandees, Mr Milosevic changed tack and did what he did in Bosnia. He has

killed thousands and displaced half a million people, while conceding not one inch to Nato. He has enforced an Albanian diaspora, tweaked Uncle Sam's nose and won the grudging support of Russia and China, important if there is to be a land war. In other words, he has done precisely what President Clinton and Mr Blair said they would never let happen.

This week Nato's leaders, having learnt nothing, came up with a new pledge. It was that the displaced people of Kosovo would soon march home under the banner of a Nato protection force. If I were a Kosovan, t would give no more weight to such promises than to an offer of autonomy from Belgrade. The West gave similar pledges under Dayton to displaced Muslims in Bosnia. They have not been honoured.

We now have "the ground opoon". The Pentagon is reported to have considered the invasion of

Kosovo so crazy that it refused to draw up contingency plans. That has had to change under presidendal order. Schemes of Vietnamese fantasticality are now being woven. They involve the air cavalry "cleaning" corridors into Kosovo for an infantry advance through the mountains. Behind them will come returning Albanian villagers, to be resettled in safe havens along the border, secured by modern technology from marauding Serbs. What the RAF has left standing of Pristina may have to be flattened. But as they said in Vietnam, you sometimes have to destroy the village to see the village. save the village.

n the heat of war, a fine line divides practicality from insan-ity. An idea later dismissed as risible, like bombing Cambo-dia or defoliating North Vietnam, may have seemed serviceable at the time. Desperate leaders need desperate ways out of corners. Today's armies, designed to confront communism, are being marched into Dattie by i eagers to get has pictures off the television screen. A wild compulsion appears to have seized Western liberalism as it gazes ogle-eyed at whatever atrocity the networks have selected for the nightly "grief pornography" slot. It is as if, with the Cold War over, liberals now want their turn at playing war games. They want to feel the surge of power, the roar of the chopper blade, the thrill of "bombs away".

If I thought for one minute that the appalling destruction America and Britain are now raining down on Yugoslavia could conceivably achieve its declared objectives, I might ponder the justice of such action. There is such a thing as a world order and it does merit imposition, as in the Falklands and Kuwait Though the integrity of states should be respected, it is not absolute. But in Kosovo no virtue appears achievable. A European state, already afflicted by a communist past and a brutalist present, is being plunged into further misery. Those we purport to help are being killed and exiled. The best we can hope is that Mr Milosevic declares his cleansing at an end and invites the "monitors" back, as he did last October. That will be a Nato defeat. But it will be a lesser defeat than the madness now on offer from the hawks of Washington and London.

comment@the-times.co.uk

Word perfect

SALMAN RUSHDIE is teaching Mariella Frostrup to write. When the novelist (below right) heard that his friend, the television presenter (left), was thinking of taking up a creative writing course, he gallantly stepped in and insisted on instructing her himself.

Frostrup initially jumped at the chance of learning the finer points of prose-writing from the author of Midnight's Children and The Ground Beneath Her Feet, his

Ground Beneath Her Feet, his latest novel based on a couple in a rock band. But the presenter, whose trademark is her gravely

voice, was quickly overawed.
"Salman handed me the first draft of The Ground Beneath Her Feet." says Frostrup. "After reading the first few pages I lost all faith in my own abilities. I had to keep wriggling out of lessons, like a kid





AFTER her histrionics at the Oscars, an apology of sorts from Gwyneth Paltrow: "I'm so sick of

myself, my boring voice and my stupid soundbites." P. D. JAMES is eclipsing Jeffrey Archer's popularity with the toughest audience in the world, Baroness James of Holland Park is begin-

WINII IC IKAD

ASIAN INTER

ning to prove a greater draw than Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare at dinners organised by local Conservative associations. Her challenge for pole position on the rubber-chicken circuit can be

put down to her discourse on crime-writing with a touch of politics, and Archer devoting more time to his mayoral ambitions. "Her chats go down well with

association members who don't like

politics," I am told. "Jeffrey gets

iewer invitations these days: he

always makes the same jokes."

WHILE groupies adored him, it Eastwooa's son Kyte (oe failed to impress the powers that be during his debut on the London jazz scene this week. After his set at Pizza Express Jazz Club. the event's organiser tells me: "The show was full, but we don't know if that is because his father is Clint Eastwood or because he has some talent as a musician."



■ UNLIKE Tony Blair, Trevor Phillips knows how to act heroically. While the PM's attempt to portray himself as a good citizen in the seas off the Seychelles last January backfired when the "rescued" swimmer denied he had been in trouble, the TV presenter helped a driver in distress and kept quiet.

Phillips, a Labour mayoral candidate for London, pulled an injured woman from her car a fortnight ago after he saw her vehicle involved in a collision with a bus. Once he had calmed her down, he disappeared because "it's not always helpful having a recognisable face around in an emergency".

PHILIP GOULD, Tony Blair's adviser on how to market himself and his party, turns Labour supporters into Tories. Fraser Kemp, MP, tells how he was persuaded by the tactician to spend £7.500 on a focus group. two of whose members voted Labour. But after Gould's presentation, one switched sides.

LAURENCE MARKS and Maurice Gran, the comedy writers, are rustling up a television detective series to relaunch Rik Mayall's career. The comedian, who starred as Alan B'Stard in the pair's New Statesman, has been out of action since suffering a serious accident on a quad bike last April. By creating a detective who "cheats at cards", Marks and Gran hope to come up with an antidote to what they consider the blandness of the Inspector Morse genre.

EDWARD WELSH

If you order a third bottle of rioja at lunch on a weekday, the waiter will tilt towards you a label that reads 'bang goes your afternoon' miserable git with a spare tyre and a solipsism problem which **Giles Coren** As Dr Stuttaford revealed in

s my girlfriend bundled up her most urgent possessions, skipped over the obstacle course of empty bottles, cast a withering look at me, and slid out of the front door into the rain. I thought to myself, "why on earth doesn't the Briosh Medical Association call for meaningful advice to be included on all bottles and cans of alcohol?

Yesterday, thank God, it did. And while this latest nannyish press release from the doctors' trade union is probably too late to save my relationship. "meaningful advice" is clearly the way forward for future generations. Who, after all, pays any anenrion to that "can seriously damage your health" stuff? What my first bottle of cider — drunk on a family holiday when I was 12 should have said on it was: "Seventeen years from now this stuff will have turned you into a may jeopardise relations with the opposite sex". I am thinking of suing Woodpecker for the fact that there's no immediate likelihood of my starting a family. This "meaningful advice" idea

is truly the most sensible thing I have ever heard. Might I suggest that bottles of Grolsch carry the warning "May lead to your fancying a large doner with onions and extra chilli sauce later, but you'll be sorry in the morning". And think of the suffering that could be alleviated by lines like "More than three pints of Caffreys may cause delusions of sexual attractiveness", perhaps with the addendum that "even if you do get lucky, you'll only roll over and

snore all night" I am even now composing a letter to those Groucho trendies who brought absinthe back on to

the cocktail lists of Britain's more

fashionable bars. A suitable warning on the bottles would be "May cause you to think it is ome to start a waspish cultural journal with absurdist carroons". Wine labels will be changed for ever, and not before time.

Now when the sommelier brings the bottle, you will peruse it not to check that it is the Savigny-les-Beaune you ordered, but to verify the many ways in which it could kill you. "I think Sir will find this a cheeky little burgundy," the obsequious fellow will say, "but the château had an anofreeze problem some years back and there are rumours about how it got approved by the standards commission, so don't come running to me if you wake up feeling like you've been mugged." Perhaps special labels could be I'm always baffled by those thanks for the humble tomato.

kept in the celtar to be applied by staff at appropriate omes. So that if you order a third bottle of rioja at lunch on a weekday, the waiter will tilt towards you a label that reads "Bang goes your afternoon".

Nor should it be only bona fide drunkards who are protected. Connoisseurs, too, can be saved from themselves. Every bottle of 47 Petrus, lor example, should say "For the price you're paying for this, you could have bought a Volvo" .Or "Think first, do you really want everyone in the kitchen laughing at you for spending £12,000 on a bottle of plonk? Can you bear the fuss the sommelier will make opening it, the way everybody will stare?" Then we can bring "meaning-

fulness" back to other warnings.

medicine bottles that say "Do not operate machinery". What ma-chinery? This is 1999. Do they mean a laptop? An electric orange-squeezer? A Braun Independent 2000? Because, frankly. the chances of my suddenly getting an urge to operate a spinning jenny or a seed-drill while under the influence of Benilyn are pretty small. "Help." you can hear them cry, "he's got a steam-powered laundry press and he may be on annibioocs."

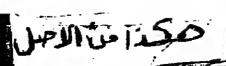
ot that we need antibiotics any more. Not now we have cereal. "A bowl of cereal could soon replace antibiotics as a cure for stomach upsets," crowed a tabloid yeslerday. Does this mean that on each nacket of Frosties children should be warned "Sock to stated dose, always finish the course"? If cereal is not your game, give

yesterday's paper, the anti-oxidant lycopene, responsible for the red colour in tomatoes, can protect you against cancer. Perhaps mobile phones, our latest carcinogenic addiction, could carry the proviso that calls should be made only while eating brightly coloured fruit. Smirnoff could run disclaimers insisting that its product be used only as an ingredient in Bloody Marys: "We accept no responsibility for health problems deriving from other uses."

But where exactly, does the lycoprene situation leave certain fruits that are not red - such as limes, quinces and lychees? I call upon the BMA to demand that they are all labelled with the harrowing reminder: "May not stop you getting cancer".

Philip Howard will return next

مكدامة الاصل



THETTIMES

THE LONG CAMPAIGN

Labour's lead in Scotland may not be as secure as it seems

It is, Alex Salmond said yesterday, "the most important election in Scotland's history". On that, at least, Tony Blair would appear to be in agreement. The Prime Minister used his first formal outing on the hustings to attack Mr Salmond and the SNP in vivid language. The voters of Scotland, by contrast, are not expressing quite the same level of enthusiasm for this contest. The campaign has been running continuously since the referendum result that endorsed a parliament with modest tax-raising powers over 18 months ago. It has existed in shadow form since devolution re-emerged as a central issue in Scottish life in the 1960s. Kosovo is, for the moment, overshadowing this battle.

The parties have done their best this week to rekindle passions. Policies have been showered on the Scots from all directions. Labour has put forward five "key pledges", the Conservatives seven, the SNP ten or 14 depending on the precise method of calculation, and the Liberal Democrats more than 20. The issues, although extremely worthy, have a certain familiarity. All four parties favour en-hanced spending on the Scottish Health Service, several computers stuffed into every Scottish classroom, and dramatic new measures to deal with Scotland's drug crisis. All the opposition parties seem inclined to repeal higher education fees and abolish tolls on the bridge that links

had by

the Isle of Skye with the Scottish mainland. The contest would be more dramatic if independence itself were the central question. Labour, not the SNP, has done its best to make the Union the defining issue. A remorseless assault on the economic costs of separation has allowed Labour to reassert its authority. Mr Salmond has been obliged to shift SNP strategy. His most prominent promise now is that the SNP would forgo next year's income tax cut and use that money for social expenditure.

This pledge is a transparent bid for the ballots of "old Labour" sympathisers, particularly those located in the West of Scotland. The SNP needs to expand its support beyond its traditional heartland in northeastern Scotland into Strathclyde if it is ever to acquire a parliamentary majority. There are, though, real risks for Mr Salmond in endorsing tax increases. This stand may be popular in Glasgow but may not play well in the northeast, which was relatively cool about tax-raising powers during the referendum campaign and are enjoying an economic renaissance.

There is little reason, though, for Labour to be complacent. The SNP is unlikely to convert urban Scotland en masse but Donald Dewar may have difficulties in persuading his natural supporters to visit the polling station. A low turnout would hurt Labour. The new voting arrangements will confuse some voters and may lead others to divide their loyalties between Labour in the constituency section and the SNP in the party list element. Mr Dewar may regret the day that he endorsed proportional representation.

This election may yet come to turn on personalities and the broader theme of Scottish identity. If so, it will move into Mr Salmond's strongest territory. The SNP leader is without doubt the most charismatic of the contenders for First Minister and will exploit patriotic sentiment. Mr Dewar cannot be expected to provide him with competition. Mr Blair is not widely loved in Scotland and there is a limit to the degree that Mr Brown can be presented as a surrogate Prime Minister. Given the likelihood of Scottish Liberal Democrats eventually gravitating to Labour after the election, the odds are still strongly in favour of Labour running the first Scottish executive. The struggle to be the largest single party in the parliament is, however, by no means settled.

NO TIME TO TRADE BLAME

Refugees risk becoming the fuse of a wider conflagration

Refugees do not willingly leave their last possessions lying in the mud, throw away identity papers and abandon scarce food half-eaten. The Macedonians' pell-mell evacuation of Blace, the wretched holdingpoint on the Kosovo-Macedonia border, has inflicted further misery on families who had already endured the unspeakable. It is hard to understand how this mass trans-shipment could have taken international monitors so totally by surprise that they still have not established where thousands of these people have been sent.

The huge fleet of buses that moved them cannot have been assembled without anybody noticing; and there were reasons to be alert. This was not the first instance -the snail-like conduct of border officials and the bundling of refugees on to planes to Turkey were others - of the Kosovan deportees being treated by Macedonian police and military more like cattle than like human beings in extremis.

But while every effort must be made to see that all Kosovo's fugitives are now registered and protected as well as fed and sheltered, to let recriminations inflame an already taut situation would be short-sighted and dangerous. Trading blame will not help the Kosovans: and for Nato, good working relations with the Macedonian Government are indispensable. However rough the Macedonian handling of Blace, that foetid encampment did urgently need emptying before it was swept by epidemics; and the authorities had been severely criticised for failing to act earlier.

It is anything but true, as the Macedonian Government asserts, that the country has had no Western help in handling the humanitarian crisis: Nato has set up huge tent cities, and ferried in 1,400 tons of supplies. But it is equally unfair not to recognise that Macedonia's conduct is partly ascribable to panic. A much larger and richer country would be overwhelmed by the arrival on its borders, within days, of 130,000 destitute people. That is equivalent to 5.9 per cent of Macedonia's 2.2 million population. The same ratio, for Britain, would be 3.4 million refugees. In Macedonia, a melting-pot whose Slavic majority rubs shoulders with half a million Albanians, as well as ethnic Turks, Bulgarians and Romanies, the fear is that they will stay, destroying the tenuous accommodation which has brought Albanian parties into the governing coalition.

Not for nothing is Macedonia called "the powder-keg of the Balkans". Many in the Skopje elite, which has uncomfortably close links with Belgrade and is deeply suspicious of Albanian nationalist aspirations, have scant sympathy for the refugees. The best way to cope with this distasteful situation is to acknowledge that its Government is walking a tightrope. The West must demonstrate convincingly that it will receive both ample humanitarian aid and broader economic support to weather the disruptions of war - and above all to persuade it that its best prospect of seeing the refugees return to Kosovo is intensified co-operation with Nato. Mishandled, this crisis could prompt Skopje to throw in its lot with Belgrade, a course that would be disastrous for Macedonia, but also for the conduct of the war: Nato will need to use the Macedonian land routes into Kosovo.

Equally urgent is generous help for Montenegro, whose brave democratic Government is handling 60,000 refugees while being actively destabilised by Belgrade; and in miserably poor Albania, where one in ten is now a refugee - almost all of them Ghegs, in a land riven by clan rivalry between Ghegs and Tosks. Slobodan. Milosevic's purposes will be well served if, by straining economies and ethnic tolerance, he can set off a chain of uncontainable regional confrontations. He must at all costs be outflanked.

ASIAN ENTERPRISE

Energy and talent have turned refugees into millionaires

As newcomers to Britain, they huddled in wintry airports and temporary reception centres, penniless, shivering and shocked. But the 50,000 Asians expelled in 1972 from Uganda by its then President Idi Amin have turned that tale of woe into a dramatic success story. A list of the 200 richest Asians in Britain, published this week, shows that the bedraggled East African refugees of a quarter of a century ago are now, with the Chinese community,

Britain's most high-flying ethnic minority. The courage, talent and sheer hard work with which Ugandan and other Asian immigrants rebuilt their lives, in a country whose welcome was tempered with anxiely. have proved a blessing not only for the new millionaires themselves but for the British economy as a whole. Tens of thousands of jobs have been created by expanding Asian businesses, and more will follow. Asian enterprise, still concentrated in the traditional food, fashion and retailing sectors, is now moving into high-tech and hotel industries and the media. Increasing numbers of businesswomen are taking their place beside businessmen. The young are taking their place beside, or instead of, their parents; for first-generation entrepreneurs foster an

early knowledge of management in their children by training them in the businesses they found - then handing them on. The merit of Asian business strategies speaks for itself: the combined wealth of the list's entrepreneurs is more than £7 billion.

The energy that made millionaires of a few is fuelling a broader move towards integration and minority achievement in modern Britain. Non-white teenagers are now more likely than their white counterparts to stay at school after 16; the percentage of black and Asian Britons with

degrees is higher than that of whites. Such achievements are all the more remarkable in light of the racism still to be found in parts of British society, which continues to throw up obstacles for minorities. Black and Asian Britons are under-represented in the police. Whitehall and the upper echelons of the public sector. In a country now painfully trying, in the wake of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, to eradicate racial injustice, the economic success of Britain's irrepressible Asian millionaires serves not only as a mute reproach to the insular who once feared their immigration. It also offers fresh evidence of the benefits of working together to create a genuinely multicultural society.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Attitudes harden on both sides of Kosovo conflict

From Professor Timothy Williamson.

Sir, Nato action has created solidarity between anti-authoritarian Serb intellectuals and the Milosevic Government. I have longstanding contacts with teachers of philosophy at Belgrade University, opponents of Milosevic until recently, in some cases at risk of their jobs, who now firmly support his refusal to give in to Nato

They have no illusions about the military disparity and are prepared to endure bombing over the long haul. They know of Serb ethnic cleansing, but believe that withdrawal of all Yugoslav forces from Kosovo would lead to ethnic cleansing in the reverse direction, of ordinary Serbs by the KLA, a fear amply grounded in the army's past record (Humanitarian Law Violations in Kosovo, Human Rights Watch, New York, 1998). They have no confidence that a Nato peacekeeping force would prevent such

Escalating Nato violence hardens Serb resolve and undermines the prospects for moderate political forces in Belgrade, on whose development hopes for stability in the region depend. Is Nato making any serious attempt to provide a way for Serbia to back down without engaging in what educated Serbs would perceive as a betrayal of fellow-Serbs in Kosovo?

Nato leaders' well-meaning but counter-productive toughness is no substitute for a realistic long-term strategy.

Yours faithfully, TIMOTHY WILLIAMSON (Professor of Logic and Metaphysics, University of Edinburgh), 32a Mansionhouse Road, Edinburgh EH9 21D. timothy.williamson@ed.ac.uk

From Mrs Catherine Windels

Sir, Michael Binyon (report, April 3) writes about the strong public support in Europe for sending ground troops to Kosovo and the high level of concern over this course in the US.

I am sure most American readers of your paper have had their fill of articles pointing to American ignor-ance of the issues in Kosovo. In fact, Americans are fully aware of two key facts. First, the civil war in which we have so disastrously intervened is manifestly a local European conflict. of the sort our ancestors came to America to avoid; one in which

Americans have become enmeshed for reasons none of our leaders for

yours) can explain convincingly.

Second, the vast majority of the ground troops Nato would supply would be American soldiers, such as the three young men paraded on Serb

Ignorani though some of us may be of the murky details of Balkan history. Americans have more than enough information to justify opposition to intensifying American involvement in this.

Sincerely.
CATHERINE WINDELS. 155 Garth Road Scarsdale, New York 10583. catherine54@netscape.net

From Mr K. R. H. Allen

Sir, It should be a matter of principle that if reporters based in Yugoslavia are not allowed to visit sites of sup-posed atrocuies in Kosovo, they should remain silent when taken to places where Nato's bombing campaign has, very regrettably, resulted in the death or wounding of civilians.

Instead, we see on television Serbs taunting Nato with cowardice for unwillingness to fight them on the ground. This is nauscating when some Serbs believe it is legitimate to despoil, rape and murder defenceless

Kosovo civilians.

I believe Nato servicemen deserve better understanding from the media.

Yours faithfully. RODNEY ALLEN. 23 Pembroke Gardens Close, Edwardes Square, W8 6HR.

From the Ambassador of Poland

Sir, I was surprised by your report (April 3) alleging that Poland feels reassured because Nalo is showing its defiance of Moscow by conducting air raids in the former Yugoslavia, and that we support this operation not least because of the opposition to it from the Russian Federation.

First, let me stress that Poland's will to accede to the Alliance had nothing to do with a threat from any specific country — there were plenty of well known reasons upon which. I think, it is not necessary to dwell here again. Second, it seems to be obvious that

the reason for the operation in the former Yugoslavia is Nato's will to stop a humanitarian disaster in Kosovo. Nato's current armed operations offer the best avenue of coercing

President Milosevic into returning to the path of negotiations and respect for human rights. Poland very much counts on the Russian co-operation in this respect.

Sincerely yours.
R. STEMPLOWSKI. 47 Portland Place, WIN 4JH.

From Sir Henry McDowell

Sir. Are we fighting a previous war? We seem to be assuming that Milosevic, following precedent, might ultimately seek to maintain his policies against international opposition by turning to the use of his guns, tanks and warplanes. His military power must therefore be reduced as our first

priority.

But he has devised a cruel alternative to armed warfare, which has so far made the use of his military strength quite unnecessary. To secure his policies and position, he has loaded countries opposing those policies with an almost intractable burden of caring for refugees.

What should be the defensive stra-

tegy to "warfare" waged in this way?

Yours sincerely, HENRY McDOWELL, 128 Court Lane, SE21 7EA.

From Mr John Pedler

Sir, The best way to demonstrate that the Kosovars shall return to their country is for the European countries of Nato to pledge contributions to a fund ample to restore every home destroyed by the Serbs. That not only would give concrete hope to the Kosovar refugees, and credible reassurance to their hosts that their stay will be limited - but would infect the Serbs with a sense of futility.

The West should not show in Kosovo the same disregard for the politico-military potential of aid that those of us involved found in Bosnia. Most Serbs in Serbia, as in Bosnia. want a share in European prosperity and an end to their hated pariah status. Were the Europeans to offer that alternative, which cannot come without a change of leadership, they would be shooting at Milosevic's Achilles' heel. Where the stick is short, a carrot is needed.

Yours truly, JOHN PEDLER, J. P. Diplomatic Consultancy, A. Stangera 16, Volosko 51410, Opatija, Croatia.

Voter recognition From Sir Frederic Bennett

Sir. Over half a century ago my wife and I happened to be in South Sudan when the first free universal franchise elections were to be held. Illiteracy was all-prevailing, so neither the names of the parties nor the candidates could usefully appear on the ballot paper. Hence, all those entitled to cast their vote had to choose, when putting their mark, between logos of animals which all could recognise.

I recall that the party represented by the crocodile got fewer votes than any other: surely to be expected because the banks of the River Nile are infested with these reptiles which are man's most feared enemy in the

I was intrigued, therefore, to read in your report. "Voting — as easy as falling off a logo" (April 3), that we electors in Britain, despite the endless repetition of "education, education, education" being the biggest issue of the day, are soon to be freed of any confusion about for whom or for what we are voting by helpful pictorial

logos. Press on, Mr Blunkett.

Yours sincerely.
FREDERIC BENNETT. Plas Cwmllecoediog, Aberangell, Nr Machynlleth, Powys SY20 9QP.

Last wishes

From Mr Ron Carver

Sir, I am totally in favour of charitable donations rather than floral tributes to mark a death and have made a similar request in my own will. However, I strongly resent those

who place this request in the Deaths column without the courtesy of adding "if desired" or something similar.

This arrogant presumption overlooks the fact that some may feel the particular deceased is worthy of no tribute, floral or charitable.

RON CARVER. 95 Ingrebourne Gardens, Upminster, Essex RM14 IBJ. April &

Happy ending

From Dr John Pease

Sir, Green string used in the garden never seems to have a free end: a frustrating and time-wasting situation. Threading the string through a half cork and moving it along the string as required will ensure no lost ends and happier gardening.

Yours faithfully, JOHN PEASE. The Ark, Church Street, Wells-next-the-Sea. Norfolk NR23 LJB.

Racism in the police From the Chairman of the Merropolitan Police Federation Joint Executive Committee

Sir, In his interview with Magnus Linklater ("Lawrence judge offers his defence", April I), Sir William Macpherson of Cluny refers to "pockets of racism, perhaps particularly in the lower ranks of the police force and the canteen". This seems naive. Many of the officers referred to are likely to be relatively new, some with less than two or three years' service. Certainly they would not have been around 18 years ago at the time of the Scarman report. Many officers in senior ranks have been in the force since long before 1981, when attitudes in society were very different.

The legal profession has long berated police officers for giving opinions not backed by firm evidence. However. Sir William's report suggests that he and his panel felt empowered, in the absence of evidence, to make assumptions. For an officer to have entertained the possibility, for example, that Stephen Lawrence's murder may have been anything other than a purely racially motivated unwitting racism.

There appears to be no acknow-ledgement in the interview of the incompetence that led to the publication of informants' names and addresses in Sir William's report, yet he has castigated officers for their mistakes. But then neither he nor his panel is subject to complaint, investigation and, perhaps, punishment under a disciplinary code.

We hope that the legacy of Stephen Lawrence is a better, more tolerant and responsible society. The police officers of London are ready, willing and able to meet the challenges. In return they expect fairness and

Yours etc. GLEN SMYTH Chairman. Metropolitan Police Federation Joint Executive Committee, Harold Scott House, l Birchfield Street, Limehouse, El4 8EX.

City charters

From Professor John Beckett-

Sir. Your report (April 5) oo the battle to become the last city to be created in this millennium quite correctly says thal "it is not necessary to have a cathedral to be awarded the status".

But in the past an Anglican cathedral was a necessary qualification and, by the Victorian period, city charters were granted almost automatically to towns which became the seats of Anglican bishops (eg, Manchester 1853, Liverpool 1880). However, in 1884 the newly created Diocese of Southwell, which took as its cathedral the rural Minster in the village of that name, became the first seat not granted a city charter.

It followed that if an Anglican cathedral did not automatically qualify a town, there was no reason to preclude important lowns from becoming cities simply because they lacked the appropriate links with the Church of England.

Belfast applied in conjunction with Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. After much discussion in the Home Office a charter was granted in 1888. Other towns followed: Birmingham in 1889. Leeds and Sheffield in 1893; Nottingham, Bradford and Hull at the time of the Diamond Jubilee in 1897. None had an Anglican cathedral at the ome.

Subsequent grants have usually (but not invariably) been made in conjunction with important royal

Yours sincerely, JOHN BECKETT. Department of History, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NC7 2RD. April 6.

ITV's standards

From Mr John Clark

Sir. Raymond Snoddy, in his summary of the Independent Television Commission's annual review covering ITV. concluded that, adding up its inadequacies and prevarications. ITV Is a disgrace (article, "ITV runs out of excuses", Media Times, April 2).

The previous evening the programme Naked Secrets was positioned in the hour between 10pm and Ilpm. News at Ten had been replaced by a programme on table dancing.

When ITV dropped News at Ten it put out an advertising campaign telling us that ITV was getting better. This "improvement" is being over-

seen by the current chief executive of ITV who, in another Snoddy article on the same page, is cited as a candidate for the BBC Director-General's job.

It is to be hoped that those making the selection both read Mr Snoddy and watch ITV.

Yours faithfully. JOHN CLARK 48 Albany Park Road, Kingston upon Thames. Surrey KT2 5SU. April 7.

Letters should earry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Business basis for eurosceptic stance

From Mr Colin Bullen

Sir. The assertions by Labour MPs Giles Radice and Bill Rammell (letter, April 7) concerning the business view of EMU are unsustainable. The Institute of Directors have made clear their very grave doubts over the single currency while the Federadon of Small Businesses have twice voted at their AGM to withdraw from the EU altogether.

The reality is that only about 15 per cent of business activity has any con-nection with the EU, the rest being either confined within the UK or relating to the wide world outside Europe. Is it sensible that, in order to satisfy the demands of a few multinational companies, we should sacrifice both our political independence and accountable system of government, by tying ourselves irrevocably to an organisation with which we have had an adverse trade balance for decades and which is afflicted both with institutional corruption and an

inefficient economic structure? Yours faithfully, C. R. BULLEN (Member, NEC, Campaign for an Independent Britain). 119 Douglas Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2UE.

From Mr R. Lathey

Sir, Giles Radice and Bill Rammell declare that "the base of British eurosceptism is rooted in confusion and misinformation". On the contrary, the basis of British

eurosceptism is rooted in the clear knowledge that the country is being led - regardless of the views of the electorate - into a European superstate, and that the single currency is merely the next step in that direction.

The confusion and misinformacon rest with those who are unable to accept this or, worse, accept it but seek to camouflage the true agenda.

Yours faithfully, R LATHEY, Trafalgar Court, Woodlands Avenue, Rustington, West Sussex BN16 3ES.

Museum's Great Court

From Professor Emeritus Luke Herrmann

Sir. In your article and leader on the British Museum Great Court development (April 5: see also letter, same day) you infer criticism of the museum's keepers for putting the storage and display of their collections before the integrity of the great building that houses them.

My Oxford English Reference Dictionary defines a museum as "a building used for storing and exhibiting objects of historical, scientific or cultural interest". In modern rimes architects and their patrons have often ignored this — Berlin's new Jewish Museum and the proposed V&A extension, for instance - and remarkable feats of architecture have come before practicality.

Keepers at the Bridsh Museum must continue to pul their collections first. It is good to have "a great new public plaza for London" on the pre-mises as an added attraction to draw in visitors, but they must not be diver-ted from the galleries, and these must not be overshadowed, as in their present state many will be, by the plaza.

Let us hope that the strengthened management of the Briosh Museum (report, April 1) will immediately find equal resources to help the keepers in their primary task.

Yours faithfully. LUKE HERRMANN, The Coombes, Sibbertoft, Market Harborough LE16 97Z.

Hysteria lecture

From Dr Helen King

Sir. Dr Gardner-Thorpe (letter. April correctly identifies the colour illustration to your feature on female circumcision (Weekend, March 27) as Jean-Martin Charcot's demonstration of hysteria at the Salpetrière.

But the patient — probably Blanche Wittman, the "Queen of Hysterics" may have learnt her moves from something omitted from the reproducoon you used: a drawing of one of the stages of hysteria. displayed at the back of the lecture room. This was by Paul Richer, who can be seen in your illustration next to Charcol capturing Blanche's swoon.

Like our own chat-show guests, Blanche may have dutifully supplied what her audience wanted to see.

Yours faithfully. HELEN KING, Departments of Classics and History, The University of Reading, Whiteknights.

So that's all right

PO Box 218, Reading RG6 6AA.

From Mr Nicholas Wibberley

Sir, I have to hand a plastic bottle which bears the legend "Carbonated spring water. Suitable for vegetar-

Yours etc. NICHOLAS WIBBERLEY. East Whiddon, Landkey Road, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 9LA.

COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE April 8: The Prince of Wales today visited the Western Isles where he was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieulenani of the Western Isles. The Viscount Dunrossil. His Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Berneray Caux-

The Prince of Wales then visited the Taigh Chearsabhaigh Arts Centre, Lochmaddy, North Uist. His Royal Highness later visited Lochmaddy Surgery, North

way linking North Uist to Bern-

KENSINGTON PALACE April 8: Princess Alice, Duchess of Colonel-in-Chief.

Gloucester. Colonel-in-Chief. King's Own Scottish Borderers. this afternoon received Lieutenans Colonel Jackson upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 1st Baitalion and Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Mackay upon assuming the ap-The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, AFASIC (Association for

All Speech Impaired Children, inday received Mrs Norma Corkish upon relinquishing her ap-pointment as Chief Executive. YORK HOUSE. ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 8: The Duke of Kent. Vice-Chairman. The British Overseas Trade Board, this morning visited Rolly-Royce plc. Filton. Bristol, He was greeted on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr. H. Elwest-His Royal Highness this after-

noon visited Hewlett Packard Laboratories, Filton Road, Stoke Gillord, Bristol, THATCHED HOUSE

RICHMOND PARK April 8: Princess Mexandra, Pa-tron, this afternoon attended a Reception and Lunch, to mark the 20th Anniversary of the founda-tion of the Alzheimer's Disease Society, at the Calé Royal, Regent Street, London,

Today's royal engagement The Duke of Kent will visit the Purdey Factory at 228 Felgate

Mews. Hammersmith, London Wo. at 11.00. For more details about the Royal Family visit the royal web site at: www.royal.gov.uk

School news The Chettenham Ladies' Cotlege

The following awards have been nffered by The Cheltenham La-dies' College and accepted for September (1900).

September 1900;
Junior Academic Awards
Centranay Scholarship: Amanda Palm,
Chinese International School Flory Kong,
Major Scholarshipe Lucy Hall Saftee,
Grammar School, Fernada; Holly Robinson, Ashidell Preparators School, Vortschure
and Radiel Jones. The Unerns, Cerence-ter
Mistor School, Ranhuer, Panthua Boundeus, Beadwest Fark, Almohinhanpon;
Jessica Burling, The Richard Pate, Chelgenham, Ease Domoelly, Padosoval House,
Shropshiter Nicola Madden, Grey House
Preparatory School, Businesioke: Amelia
Pretage, Si Faith's Cambridge, and Lmily
Price, Ambrice, Chelgenham,
Awards, Rached de Courry, The Querre,
Cirencester: Eleanur Foster, Mourfield.

Amorte Amorte Cheminani, Amarda Rachel de Courcy, The Querra, Cirenesster, Ekanur Foster, Maurfald, Jorkhitte Sarah Kright, Eftebrook, Morebortin-Marshe Tara Morricon, Garden House, London, and Sophie Taylor, St. Michael S. Jersey, and Sophie Taylor, St. Michael S. Jersey, Janior Music Awards Major Scholarships Bearrier Scalduni Schola Media Starale "Guise Danie", Stotola Haly, and Rebeen Tan The Furcell School, London, Minor Scholarships Lucy Hall Sahus Granamar School, Bermuda, Rachel Jone, The Duerris, Chenesser, and Emily Price, Aurhire, Cheneham Siath Forna Awards Awardse Rhianne Kandya, Cilhon College, Bristol: Susannah Mecke, The Maymaid School, Exert, and Sarah Walton, Loughborough High School.

Day Girl Awards Eleanor Bruce, King's School, Glouester, and Amarbe Wood, Westonbirt, Tethury, Art Scholarship: Jeonna Ham, Yenbury Wells High School.

Plesty annle In the Seniore for a Plesty annle In the Seniorm for a

School.

Please apply to the Registrar for a prospectus and details of the 3000 scholat-ship and currance examination arrange-



The Mayor of Doncaster. Couocillor Yvonne Woodcock, in costume to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Mansion House, the South Yorkshire lown's most historic building. It will be open to the public all next week, with the Mayor and ber footmen dressed for the part

University news Cambridge

Downing College

The following have been elected Honorary Fellows of Downing College Cambridge: Professor Colin Blakemore, FRS, Waynilete Professor of Physiology in the University of Oxford. Professor Alan Carrington, FRS. Poyal Society Research Professor in the University of Southampton. Professor Richard Gregory, FRS Emeritus Prolessor of Neurophysi-ology in the University of Bristol. Professor Martin Kemp, FBA. Professor of History of Art in the University of Oxford. Sir Arthur Wans, KCMG, QC.

formerly Legal Adviser to the Foreign and Commonwealth Of-

London Royal Holloway College New Deans

Professor Denis Cosgrove, BA Oxoni. MA (Toronio). DPhil (Oxon). Geography, Dean of the Graduate School from October I. 1998 to September 30, 2001 Dr Feier Dewey, BA (Exerct), PhD (Reading), History, Dean of the Faculty of History and Social Sciences

bridgel. PhD (Cambridge). Classics. Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Music Dr David Shepheard, MA, PhD [Cambridge], Dean of Admissions

Professor Chris Carey, MA (Cam-

Promotions Dr David Denney, BSocSq [Warwick], MA, CQSW, PGCE, PhD (Rent) to Reader in Social and **Public Policy**

Mr John le Neve Johnson

life of John le Neve Johnson Unhanie) will be held at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London, EC4, on Thursday, April 22, at noon. Church news

The Rev Roben Marsden. Chap-lain, Fenes College (Edinburgh): to be Minister, Buxton (Trinity Chapel) Proprietary Chapel (Derby). The Rev Edward Mason, Vicar, Churchdown St Bartholomew and St Andrew (Gloucester): to be also Rural Dean of Gloucester North.

Appointment |

Mr Peter Harborne to be High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago in succession to Mr Gregory Faulkner who moves to a new Diolomatic Service appointment.

Roman window-pane factory tracked down at York

By Norman Hammond, archaeology correspondent

mell glass, and why there was

no need for any specialised industrial fabrics," the investi-

The presence of tridymite

and cristobalite, inversions of

quartz that form at 867 and

1.250 degrees respectively.

show that the raw materials

had been heated almost to the

latter temperature, but not for

"Al these lemperatures

there can be no doubt that the

aim was to produce glass,

even if, in this case, the effort

was not a success," they say.

Glassmaking in antiquity is often claimed to have been

a two-stage process, with the

raw materials fused around

700-850 degrees to form a

"frit", which removed impuri-

ties: the frit was then ground

to powder and melted above

1.000 degrees to make glass.

The York evidence suggests

thal a single-stage process

may have been used instead,

something which experiment

The chemical composition

of the York glass was slightly

different from the Roman

imperial standard, with a

higher level of potassium that

may have been due to the

presence of plant ash. It was

nol contamination from the

crucibles, and these were in

fact carefully chosen for their

buff colour and lack of iron.

which if it had melted into the

glass would have imparted a

The York glass was clear to

distinctive blue-green tinge.

has shown to be feasible.

gators say.

A RARE Roman glass factory has been identified in York. the ancient Eburacum and one of the principal cities in the Empire's northernmost province. Although thousands of Roman glass vessels and numerous fragments of window-glass are known, this is the first manufactory whose location can be pinpointed. Evidence for the factory

was excavated 20 years ago, during investigation of the Coppergate site now occupied by the Jorvik Viking Centre, but has only recently been recognised. More than 180 pottery

sherds with melled glass adhering to them were identified as manufacturing debris, because some of the glass was incompletely fused. This "semi-reacted batch

material" was found redeposited in Viking levels of the famous "Coppergate Dig" site, and was initially thought to be of Viking date; but detailed scrutiny of the stratigraphic records for the site showed that a small but important amount of both the glass-melting pots and the batch material was securely stratified in Roman layers.

"This strongly suggested that glassmaking took place during the Roman period, and was confirmed when the pots were identified as 'Ebor ware, the local coarse nottery made between about AD 71 and 250." say Caroline Jackson and her colleagues in the Journal of Glass Studies. The Coppergate area of the

Roman city had other light industries as well, including potteries, and lay close to the riverbank, where products could be shipped.

The pots may have been light green, and may well made close by, but they were have been intended for makalso chosen because they ing window-panes rather could withstand temperathan containers. The molten tures of 1,150 C without losing glass would have been cast in their shape. "This quality moulds, leaving no characterexplains why the local domesistic waste products. tic pottery could be used to There would have been a

> great demand for window glass at the time," the investigators say. "Not only were parts of the fortress being rebuilt, but there was also much building activity in the civilian settlement - this was rapidly growing town which became the provincial capital of northern Britain," The main glassmaking cen-

tres of the Roman Emplre were in Egypt and Judaea, where raw materials were abundant, but too bulky and caustic to ship easily: Alexandrian glass was the more expensive. This limited manufacture of raw glass might account for the uniform chemical composition of vessels, wherever they were blown.

Window-glass was cheaper than blown cups and vases, according to Roman price edicts, which would make shipping less profitable and tempting.

The slightly different composition of the York glass suggests a degree of experimentation, but more studies which discriminate between the two kinds of glass are needed, as are more directed investigations of the industrial process itself. "After all, this is probably the only glass in the Roman Empire whose place of manufacture can be exactly pinpointed," the investigators note.

Source: Journal of Glass Studies 40: 55-61.

Birthdays today Mr Severiano Ballesteros, golfer, 42 Lord Justice Simon Brown, 62:

Sir Brian Cubbon, former civil servant, 71; Lord Deramore, 88: Mr G.H. Edwards, Rector, Morri-son's Academy, Perthshire, 41; the Most Rev Domenico Enrici, former Apostolic Nuncio. 90; Mr Robson Fisher, former Headmasler. Bryanston School, 78: Lord Fin. 73: Viscount Gage, 65: Miss Hannah Gordon, actress, 58: Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple, Lord-Lieutenant of East Lothian, 73; Mr Roger Harrison, chairman, Toynbee Hall, 66; Sir Graham Hills, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Strathclyde University, 73; Mr Tom Jackson, trade unionist, 74: Mr Neil Jenkins, tenor, 54; Mr Alan Knott, former cricketer, 53; Mr Tom Lehrer, lecturer and songwriter, 71; Mr Martin Margie-ta, fashion designer, 45; Professor Basil Mitchell, FBA, philosopher of religion, 82; Mr Peter Moores, former chairman, Littlewoods Organisation, 67; Dr Vincent O'Brien, raechorse trainer, 82; Sir Michael Ogden, QC. 73; Sir Michael Palliser, former Head of the Diplomatic Service, 77; Sir Michael Richardson, former chairman, Smith New Court, 74; Professor K.G. Robbins, Senior Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales, 59; Mr Martin Rogers, former Chief Master, King Edward's School, Birmingham, 68; Miss Valerie Singleton, broadcaster, 62; Mr Michael Somare, CH, first Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, 63: Professor D.M. Walker, QC, FBA, 79; Mr B.H. Weston. former chairman, Manweb, 69: Sir

Latest wills

Sir David Lane, of Great Shelford, E1,027,465 net. He left E5,000 each to Christian Ald, Save the Children Fund, Voluntary Service Overseas and Youth Clubs UK. Mr Alfred Gordon Askew of Wingfield, Diss. Norfolk, left es-

Richard Young, Industrialist, 85.

tale valued at £1,307,155 net. Mrs Enid Isaacs, of Sheffield, South Yorkshire, left estate valued at E1,148,499 net. Mr Jacob King, of East Bergholt, Ipswich, Suffolk, left estate valued-at £1,019,817 net.

Mrs trene Mary Lawton, of Watford, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1,304,307 net. Mr Edward Carson Lister, of Coldharbour, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,474,478 net.

Jolanta Halina Neufeld, of Lon-don WI. left estate valued at £1,335,791 net.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E.S.S. Bedell and Miss CJA. Tracy

The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Jack Bedell, of Bishnes Castle. Shropshire, and Caroline, unly daughier of Mr and Mrs Ralph Fracy, of Evesham, Worcestershire.

Mr D.G. Bradley and Miss M. McL. Dongall

The engagement is announced hetween Damian, son of Mr and Mrs John Bradley, of Westhuryon-Trym, Bristol, and Margarel. daughter of Mr and Mrs lain Dougail, of Conthorne, West

Mr G. Capilupo and Miss L.J. Pollington

The engagement is announced between Gerardo, elder son of Signora Giulia Capilupo and the late Signore Raffaello Capilupo, of Cosenza, Italy, and Louise, Iwin daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Pollington, of Frant, Sussex.

Captain Z.N. Catsaras, L.G. and Miss N.N. Landell-Mills The engagement is announced between Captain Zamir Nicholas Catsaras, The Life Guards, elder son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Catsaras, of Ashtead, Surrey, and Natasha, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Pierre Landell-Mills. of Washington, D.C.

Mr M.J.L. Chawner and Miss G.J.P. Hare The engagement is announced between Matthew, elder son ol Mr and Mrs John Chawner, of Epsom, Surrey, and Philippa, only daughter of Mrs Tilly Hare, of Canon Pyon. Hereford, and the late Mr Richard Hare,

Mr P.E.H. Davies

and Miss L.E. Palmer The engagement is announced between Edward, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Hamilton Davies, of Bardfield Saling, Essex, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ross Palmer, of Melbourne, Australia. The marriage will take place in Melbourne, on January 8, 2000, followed by a blessing and reception in England next spring. Mr J.R. Plankett-Ernie-Erle-Drax

and Miss N.M.S. Bogard
The engagement is announced between Jeremy Ryton, second son of Mr and The Hon Mrs Henry Walter Plunkett-Errile-Erie-Drax,

of Charborough Park, Wareham, Dorset, and Natasha Michelle Sarah, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Harvey Philip Bogard, of Carlton Hill, London. Mr R.Gamba and Miss S.J. Bardwell

The engagement is announced between Rumon, son of Mr and Mrs Paul Gamba, of Crowborough, East Sussex, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Bardwell, of Darley, North Yorkshire.

Mr H.P.B Martin and Miss LE Roberts

The engagement is announced between Hugh, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Martin, of Stoke Charity, Hampshire, and Lucy, only daughter of John Roberts, of Lyford Cay, Bahamas, and Mrs Carole Roberts, of Owmby by Spital, Lincolnshire.

Mr N.J. Jeffers and Miss G.E. Buston The engagement is announced hetween Neil, son of Air Commodore and Mrs Peter R. Jeffers, of Northwood. Middleses, and

Georgina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Buxton, of Endlesham

Road, London. Mr S.M. Joyner

and Miss A.K. Foley The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Dr and Mrs Miles Jovner, of Husham, Devon, and Amelia, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Foley, of Cultompton

Mr M.J. Keller and Miss T.E. Sherriff

The engagement is announced between Manhew, son of Mrs Pat Keller and the late Mr Charles Keller, of Sandgate, Kent, and Tiffany, daughter of Mr and Mrs Vernun Sherriff, of Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

NITTE COLUMN

Mr E.H.T. Law

and Miss LN. Hine
The engagement is announced
between Edward, son of the Hon
Cecif and Mrs Law, of Broad Campden, Gloucestershire, and Lucy, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Hine, of Advent, North

Mr P.J.G. Law and Miss A.J. Vacher

The engagement is announced between Patrick, eldest son of Mr and Mrs G.A. Law, and Amanda youngest daughter of Mr and Mr. P.J.S. Vacher. Mr P.W. Makin

and Miss EJ. Duffin

The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Mr and Mrs Rodney Makin, of Barnes, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Duffin, of Barnes. Mr P.H. McKee

and Miss N. Kopelowitz The engagement is announced

tween Paul, son of Sylvia and Herbert Mckee, of Epsom, Surrey and Natasha, daughter of Arnold and the late Anne Catherine Kopelowitz of Mill Hill, Middlesey Mr S. Scott Elliot

and Miss M. Booney
The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of Lieutenant Colonel A. Scott Elliot. of Thornhill, Stirling, and Mrs A. Duffin, of County Down, and Michelle, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. Bonney, of Hararc, Zimbabwe. Mr H.D. Stogdon and Miss M.A.T. Miles

The engagement is announced between Henry, son of Mr and Mrs David Stogdon, of Witchampton. Dorset, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Miles, of Blechingley, Surrey Captain B.S. Stokes and Fraulein S. Freise

The engagement is announced between Benjamin, son of Mr and Mrs H.C. Stokes, of Dyrham. Widtshire, and Sascha, daughter of Herr and Frau Busso Freise of Mr J.F. Towers

and Miss A.M. Crowther The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr Francis Towers, of Chipping Campden. and Mrs Kathleen Blinkhorn, of Lymm, Cheshire, and Alison, daughter of Dr and Mrs Andrew

Crowther, of Tewkesbury.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: James Scott, Duke of Moomouth, illegitimate son of King Charles II. Rotterdam, 1649: Isambard Kingdom Brunel, engineer. Portsmouth, 1806; Charles Baudelaire, poet, Paris, 1821; Leon Blum, Prime Minister of France 1936-37 and 1938, Paris, 1872; Paul Robeson, singer and actor, Prince-ton, New Jersey, 1898; Hugh Gaitskell, leader of the Labour Party 1955-63. London, 1906; Sir Robert Helpmann, ballet dancer and choreographer, Mount Gambia, South Australia, 1909. DEATHS: King Edward IV, reigned 1461-70 and 1471-83, Lon-

its territory to Canada, 1896. don, 1483: Lorenzo de Medici (The Germany invaded Denmark and Magnificent). Careggi, Italy, 1492: Norway, 1940.

PATON - On April 6th at Chapel Amble Major James Richard Paton. The Kings Own Boyal Border Regiment. Husband of Sheilagh. A man of outstanding courage

HILLIPS - At The County

Bacon, Lord Chancellor 1618-21. London, 1626; Danie Gabriel Rossetti. Pre-Raphaelite poet and painter, Birchington-on-Sea, Kent. 1882; Mrs Patrick Campbell, actress. Pau, France, 1940; Dr C.E.M. Joad, civil servant, author and controversialist, Hampstead, 1953; Frank Lloyd Wright, architect. Phoenix, Arizona, 1959. General Robert E. Lee capitulated lo General Grant at Appomatiax Court House, Virginia, 1865. The Hudson Bay Company ceded

François Rabelais, writer and

physician, Paris, 1553; Francis

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PERSONAL COLUMN

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God, and a great King above all gods. Psain 95.3 (NRSV). BIRTHS

ALLMEY - On 5th April 1999, to Vicki-Marie Inée Snelli and William, tho gift of a daughter. Bethlyn Victoria-Anne.

BHOGAL - On 7th April, at The East Shore Hospital, Singapore, to Permjeet Kaur inée Mundevi and Kaur Ince Mundeys and Satuam Singh, a heautiful heby, Kieran Singh, Sibs 30z, grandsoo to Mr & Mrs Pritam S. Bhogal (Chelmslord) and Mr & Mrs Pritpaul S. Mundey

BRAMBLE - On 4th April at Kingston Hospital, to ton Hospital, to ba (née Melkle) and lan, a son, Max Henry, a brother for Dominic and

BRIGGS - On April 3rd, to Anabel Inée Ziegleri and Daniel, a daughter, Honor Johanna, a sister for Hai. Wilkie and Arthur. CARR-JONES - On 31st March 1999, to Zoë Inée Tomkins! and Charles, 3 daughter, Jemima Anna

DAUBENY - On April 5th in Turbridge Wells, to Clare inée Blacki and Giles, a beautiful daughter. Jessica long

KELLER - On 25th March 1999, to Louise (née Symons) and Philip, a daughter, Lauren Trudy, a sister for Gahriel KHALIQUE-BROWN - On

Brown, a daughter,

April 2nd, to Nagcena ince Khalique) and Andrew

BIRTHS ACKNER - On April 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Frederique (née Moal) and Den, a daughter, Sophia, sister to Philip, Grogory and Ana. Thanks and

LINDSAY - On March 19th at The Portland Hospital, Io Lucy (née Davenhill) and Ludovic, a son, Cosmo Simon, a brother for Merlin. MACCRINDLE - On March 19th 1999 to Alison and

Guy, a daughter. Catherine Sarah. PETERSON - On April 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Karen and Scott, a daughter, Olivia Bay.

POWELL - On 1st April to Jo (née Shouler) and David, a beautiful daughter, Alice RIMMER - On March 23rd ot The Portland Hospital, to Leslie Decker ond Stephen, a daughter, Josephine, o elster for James.

ANNIVERSARIES

MARSHALL - To Jennile Elizabeth on our first of many onniversaries. Thank you, just for being you. All my love Christopher.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

DOYLE:RUCKER - On 9th April 1949 at Holy Trinity Brompton, London SWT. Cavin to Judy.

DEATHS

oth in London

BELL - Richard Warwick
MB.BS., LRCP. MRCS.
Lormerly of Notting Hill
Gate, died peacefully on
Ard April 1999 A darling
husband to Raiza and the
most loving father. A
unique man who gave
selflessly to all he knew.
Funeral at 1 pm on
Thursday 15th April 1999
at St Francis of Assiss,
Pottery Lane, Notting Hill
Gato, W11, Enquiries to
Chelsea Funeral Directors,
260b Fulham Road, SW10.

BULL - Peacefully on Thursday, 1st April, Moira Christian, aged 93, widow of Sir Walter Bull KCVO, deeply loved mother of Anthony, mother-in-law of Suc and Grandmother of Rupert, Tohy and

ASHWORTH - Ann, widow John Ashworth, Dean of Trinidad. Funeral Colchester Crematorium 11 am 16th April 1999.

of Rupert, Toby and Charlic. Cremation private to be tollowed inter in the year by a Service of Remembrance for them

CARMICHAEL - Rosema ARMICHAEL - Rosemary
Francis Scott aged 85 on
April 37d 1999 peacofully
at the Ida Darwin
Hospital, Cambridge
Much loved annt and much loved annt and great-aunt. Funeral at 4pm on Friday 16th April at tha East Chapel Cambridge Cramatorium. No flowers please but donations to her memory may be sent to British Red Cross e o C.E. Fuller & Company, 23 Hall Street, Scham, Cambs.

CLARK - On April 4th 1999, in hospital in Exeler, Ronald Ernest Clark, Minst Fire E. aged 87, ol Farnham Surrey. Dear husband of Mary and the late Gwen, lather of Roger, Jill and Graham, and much lewed by his sight. loved by his eight grandchildren. Foneral Service at Aldershot Service at Aldershot Cremetorium, on Tuesday April 13th of 2.30 pm. Family Rowers only: donallons for either Amnesty International or Cystle Fibrosis Trust c/o Thorne-Leggett, Petersfield Road. Whitehill, Bordon, GU35 9AR

CRAWFORD - Colin William died peacefully at home on April 7th 1999, much loved hushand of Diana and lather of Joanna, James
and Hugo. Private family
cremation, a service of
thanksgiving will be
announced later.
Enquiries C.J. Williams tal:

> OALGLEISH - Jamie suddent OALGLESH - Jamie suddent; in bospital on 7th April.
> Adored Husband of Jane and loving Father of Martin and Richard and e much loved Father-in-law and Grandfather. At the request of the family a private funeral service is to be held A magnetial. to ha held. A memorial service to be arranged at a later date. Family flowers only. Donations to the RNLL Donalions and all enquiries to Green Willow Funerals, 33 St Isan Rusd. Heath, Cardill, 01222 462100.

DOUGLAS - Mabel Josephine passed away at home on Sunday 4th April aged 62 years. She will be sadly missed by her family, Irlends and all celleagues at Rank Organisation. Miss Onngies will be taken into Si Columbas R.C. Church on Mouday 12th April at Si Columbas R.C. Church on Monday 12th April at 5pm, followed by a Requiem Mass on Tuesday 13th April at 9.15 am. Then interment at Blacon Cemetery, Chester. Family flowers only please. All enquiries to Dutton and Hallmark, 80 Faulkner Street, Hoola, Chester, tel: 101244) 310968.

OUGGAN - Charles aged 77 years. Died after a short illness on Maundy Thursday, 1st April 1999. Dearly beloved husband ol Anne, much loved ol Anne, much loved hrother of Mortimer ideceased), Margaret ideceased U.S.A.), John, Gladys ideceased: Patrick and Joseph. Requiem mass, 11am Thursday 15th April at SI James's Church, Popes Grove, Twickenham. Thence to Teddington Cemetery, Shacklegate Lane, All oncuries and flowers if

onquiries and flowers il desired to Andrew Holm and Son 0181 572 3277. DUNHAM - Anthony H.M. of Brentwood, Essex, passed away peacefully at home on 1st April 1999 aged 69 years. Funeral Service to years, Funeral Survice to take place at South Easex Crematorium, Upminster at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 14th April, Family flowers only please, Donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation and sent c/o Bennetts (Brentwoo Ltd., 120 High Btreet, Brentwood CM 14 4AS.

on April 7th 1999 aged 90 pescafully at her home in Highgate. Dearly loved mother of Clive and the late Sandra, devoted grandmother of Sarah, Miriam and Oavid and dear friend of her daughter-in-law Penny.

dear friend of her daughter-in-law Penny. We all lowed her very much. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Funeral at Golder Green Crematorium Tuesday April 13th el 12 noon. Enquiries to Leverton & Sons Ltd. tel: 10181: 444-5753.

very dear sister of Madge and Fred, died peacefully at the Royal Free Hospital Hampstead on April 4th Cremation Golders Green Crematorium on 15th April at 2.15 pm. LETH-BUCHANAN - Al home on 6th April 1999 Barbara Deane, widow of Sir George Leith-Buchanan Bart., in her 96th year. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mungo's Episcopal Church, Alexandria on Monday 12th April al 11.30am to which all friends and neighbours are respectfully invited. Thereafter cremation privale.

LIOYO - Anne suddenly hu peacefully at home on April 2nd 1999. Beloved wile of David, darling Mummy to Simon. Caroline and Christophes and much loved Grannie Annie to Thomas, Harry and Holly, Private Cremation. Service of Thankagiving at Boxgrov Priory. nr. Chichester on Friday April 16th at 2.30pm. No flowers but donations, if desired for The Sussex Snowdrop Trust may be sent c/o Ine Sussex Showdrop Trust may be sent c/o Kevin Holland Funeral Service. 246 Chichester Road, Bognor Regis PO21 5BA. Tel: 01243 868630.

LOYD - Anne suddenly hul

LYTHE - Peacefully after a abort illness in Kings Cross Hospital, Dundee on Wedneeday April 7th 1939, Joan of Broughty Ferry, Dundee, Beloved wife of the late Professor Edgar Lythe and a dear mother of Charlotte. Puneral service on Wedneeday April 14th in The University Chaplaincy, Cross Row, Dundee at 11.30 am, thereafter in Dundee Crematorium at 12.30 pm. All friends respectfully Invited. Family flowers only please.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

MDDRETON - Round George D.S.C., died on 31st March 1999 peacefully at home in London aged 85. Widower of dearly loved Sybil Middleton (née Summerscale Who died in 1978 most of David 1976, uncle of David

Summerscale and greatuncle of Emily and
Tristan. Senior Partner of
Coward Chance 1972 to
1980. Cremation private.
A service of thankagiving
will be held on Tuesday
27th April at 12 noon at St
Botolph without
Aldersgate London EC1.
No Rowers please hul
donations if desired to
Staying Put, Anchor Trust,
Fountain Court, Oxford
Spires Business Park,
Kiddington, Oxford, OX5
INZ.

PATON - (Thomas) Angus
(Lyall). Passed peacefully
away in Jersey on 7th
April 1999 in his 94th year
after a wonderful life.
Greatly lowed end much
missed by his daughters
and sons, grandchildren
and groat-grandchildren.
Funeral Service Reliatives and frienda
wishing to attend the wishing to attend the funeral service are invited to meel at SI Brelade's Parish Church, Jersey, on Thursday 15th April at Thursday 15th April at 11.30 am. Private 11.30 a

28 Belgrave Square, London, SWIX 8QG, A

nomorial service will take place in England at a is lor

Respital Linonin, on Apr 3rd 1999 Allan David Morgan aged 73 years. Much loved husband of Mona, loving father of Joanna and David and Joanna and David and grandfather of Claire. Funeral Service at St. Thomas Chapel of Ease, Heighington on Wednesday 14th April at 1.45 pm followed by cremation at Linouln Crematorium at 2.30 pm. Donalions if wished to St. Barnabes Hospice, Lincoln. Enquirles tel: 01522 520606.

> Pilcher - Elleen Mary of Well Cottage Liphook Hampehire peacefully on 6th April 1999 aged 93 years. Dearest sister of Tony and Dians and lifelong friend of Marjorie Piorence Epps. Funeral Service on Friday 16th April at St Marys Church Bramshott at 1pm followed by cremation at Guildiord Crematorium. 2pm. Flowers to Gould an Chapman Funeral Directors of Avanue House, Headley Road, Grayshott, Surrey.

Funeral to be held at 11 am on 15th April at St Michael's Church, Lower Machen, Newport, Gwent, Donations to W.R.V.S., Millon Hill House, Millon Hill, Abingdon, Oxfordshire or The National Truet National Trust, Membership Department, PO Box 39, Bromley, Kent, Enquiries tel: H.1. & E. Piper (01222: 862258. ROSBOTTOM - Lorna G died tragically in a car crash on Thursday 1st April aged 84. A genealogist and local historian who did much for her local community of Tintinhuil, Somerous spiril who

POTTER - Edith, widow of

the late Charles Potter, died on 27th March at the

age of 94 years. Loved mother of Anthes, Janet, Timothy and Mirands. Funeral to be held at 11 am

1:-

PERSONA

was a generous spirit who was much loved and respected by (amily and friends. The funeral is to be beld on Thursday 15th April at 2.30 pm at St Margaret's Church. Tintinhull, near Youvil. Somerset. No flowers please but donalions in light to the product of liev to be made to Tintinhuli Village Millennium Fund c/o David Rivett Funeral Director, 30 Lyde Road, Yeovil, Somerset, tok (01935) 433737.

PSON-BRASS - On April SMAPSON-BRASS - On Ap-7th aged 77 years Dr. Alfred McKillop (Msc) Simpson-Brass of Newcastle upon Type. Loving hushand of Elizabeth.

صكدا من الاصل

SIR JAMIE FLANAGAN

Sir Jamie Flanagan, CBE, Chief Constable of the RUC, 1973-76. died on April 4 aged 85. He was born on January 15, 1914.

SIR JAMIE FLANAGAN was the first and as yet only - Roman Catholic lo be Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. He was well-liked by both communities, and it was his job to enforce the rule of law at the height of the Troubles. In this time he had to respond to two events which (for different reasons) threatened the efficacy and integrity of the RUC: the Ulster Workers' Council strike of 1974, and the talks between the Provisional IRA and the British Govern-

ment the following year.

The strike of May 1974 — called by lovalists unhappy with the Sunningdale power-sharing agreement - succeded in breaking the new executive. Much criticism was directed at the RUC, whose members were seen talking to masked members of the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association at the barricades. Flanagan rebutted accusations that he had failed to confront the strike properly. He denied any collusion between the RUC and loyalist paramilitaries, pointing out that not a single member of his force had mutinied to join the strikers.

Later that year the IRA declared a ceasefire. Flanagan was one of the first to express scepticism publicly, proceeding to increase the number of police road checks in West Belfast. He was wary of the ramifications of dialogue with the IRA, believing that the "incident centres" established by the Government to combat local crime would only consolidate the republicans' grip on Catholic areas, thus undermining the position of the RUC. He also voiced opposition to the reduction in the number of troops in republican areas, and was a read to the reduction in the number of troops in republican areas. and was reported to have been furious when Merlyn Rees, then Northern Ireland Secretary, suggested that certain republican leaders should be issued with firearm certificates.

Flanagan became alarmed at rumours that such moves were part of a plan to replace the RUC. This was denied by Rees, though Flanagan's departure in May 1976 was an unhappy and controversial affair.
It was reported that he had wanted to stay on, but Rees sought his removal because Flanagan refused to implement measures which were widely supposed to form parts of a ceasefire deal with the IRA. It was a strange way to go: he had said when he took up the position in 1973 that he would stay for only two years.

James Bernard Flanagan was born in Londonderry, the son of a sergeant in the Royal Irish Constabulary. He joined the RUC in 1933, and by 1942 was a district inspector. After the war, in which he served on attachment to the War Office. he was seconded to the Foreign and Colonial Office, and went to Greece as part of the British police mission to help to restructure the police force there.

In 1952 he returned to the RUC and after some time in Co Londonderry and

West Belfast he was promoted to county inspector and transferred to police head-quarters in Belfast. He rose through the ranks of chief superintendent and assistani chief constable, and by 1970 he was deputy chief constable.

Flanagan's appointment to Chief Constable was meant to be an encouraging signal to the Catholics in Ulster, and in many ways he was very successful. He managed to initiate formal contacts with the police force of the trish Republic, he was popular among both Catholics and Protestants — the former regarding him as a man who would gave them a fair deal, the latter welcoming his readiness to enforce the law. At the time of his controversial departure, both the SDLP leader Gerry Fitt and the Rev Ian Paisley of the DUP rallied round to support him.

For security reasons Flanagan attended Mass at a different church each week. On one occasion the police had to raid a house adjacent to one of Flanagan's more regular churches, where they discovered notes documenting his churchgoing schedule

A more serious security threat came in July 1974, when it was discovered mid-flight - that an aircraft on which he was travelling was carrying a bomb. The British Airways jet, bound for London with 85 passengers, made an emergency landing at Manchester. Following its evacuation a 21b gelignite bomb was found under a seat. The device had failed to explode because the drawing pin used in the timing device had a layer of paint on it, preventing the current from making a loop through the watch hand.

After his retirement Flanagan and his wife settled eventually in Suffolk, where he did much work for the Police Athletic Association and for the Sue Ryder Foundation.

He was appointed MBE in 1952, advanced to OBE in 1968 and to CBE in 1973. He was knighted in 1975. He married Florence Acheson in 1938; they had two sons and a daughter.



Flanagan: respected by both community

RUTH GIPPS

Ruth Gipps, MBE, composer and conductor. died on February 23 aged 78. She was born in Bezhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, on February 20, 1921.

AS THE first woman to conduct at the Festival Hall. and as founder of the London Repertoire training orchestra, Ruth Gipps — or "Wid" as she was almost universally known - was an inspiration to generations of budding musicians and composers, men

Formed in 1955, the London Repertoire was aimed both at young would-be musicians and at out-of-work orchestral players, with the aim of cultivating a high standard of playing and sight-reading. Double basses, are you sure that A is meant to be natural?" she would boom out over her all-male orchestra.



Her Chanticleer Orchestra, which she founded in 1961, won her much acclaim and performed many times on the South Bank. With both of her orchestras she regularly promoted the works of 20thcentury British composers and gave opportunities to young soloists in need of their first break; among them were the singer Jane Highfield, the cellists Alexander Baillie and Julian Lloyd Webber and the

violinist José Luis García. Born into a musical family - her Swiss mother was a pianist and ran a music school at their home in Bexhill -Ruth Dorothy Louisa Gipps insisted on being allowed to play the piano as soon as she could reach the keys. At the age of four she made her public debut in London, and at eight she published her first composition The Fairy Shoemaker. At 16 she went to the Royal College of Music, where

her teachers included Gordon Jacob, Vaughan Williams and Leon Goossens. In 1942 Sir Henry Wood conducted her Knight in Armour at the Last Night of the Proms.

She was for several years first oboe and cor anglais player with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orches-tra, as well as being chorus director of the City of Birming-ham Choir and conductor of the Co-op Orchestra and Listener's Club Choir. It was while at Birmingham that she realised she would have to abandon her hoped-for career as a piano soloist; an old childhood injury to her shoulder was giving her trouble with her right hand.

On returning to London in 1954 she started working as a guest conductor. Despite the resistance she encountered, Gipps became the first woman to conduct the all-male London Symphony Orchestra (in 1957). She later conducted her own Third Symphony for a BBC broadcast.

Her strength lay in her enthusiasm. Never one to sit around waiting for the masses to come to her, she took classical music to the people, in the form of lunchtime concerts and in evening classes; and when she conducted, it was usually from memory, even with such works as Sir Arthur Bliss's Colour Symphony.

She taught counterpoint and musical history at Trinity College, then the Royal College of Music and, finally, became Co-Principal at Gypsy Hill. She was made chairman of the Composers' Guild of Great Britain in 1967, the year in which the guild opened the British Music Information Centre in Stratford Place in Central London, now a treasure trove of British 20th-

century compositions. After retiring from the London Repertoire in 1986, Gipps taught herself to play the organ. She also became musical director of the Heathfield Choral Society, near her home in East Sussex. In 1988 she conducted a well-received concert of music by women composers of the past 300 years at St John's, Smith

Square. In 1981 she was appointed MBE for her services to music. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Robert Baker, a former clarinettist, and by their son.



DR CHARLES WARREN

A group photograph of the 1936 Everest expedition at base camp. Warren is standing far right in the back row.

Dr Charles Warren. physician and mountaineer, died on March 30 aged 92. He was born on

April 15, 1906.

CHARLES WARREN coupled a lifelong love of mountains, literature and art with an eminent career in medicine. As a young and newly qualified houseman he gained leave from Bart's to join the three British attempts on Everest in the 1930s. (One of the hospital's senior surgeons at the time was Geoffrey Keynes, himself an enthusiastic climber and

friend of George Mallory.) All three expeditions were dogged by bad weather, and none came even close to success, but the experience roped Warren into the climbing elite of the day, along with such men as Shipton, Tilman, Smythe and Odell.

FLIGHTS

DIRECTORY

Warren came to the attention of the Everest Committee with his success on Marco Pallis's expedition to the Gangotri district of the Himalayas in 1933, when he and Colin

Kirkus reached the summit of Bhagirathi III. Their route demanded severe rock climbing at more than 21,000ft, an outstanding achievement and perhaps the most difficult technical climb in the Himalayas at that time.

The Everest attempts 1935, 36 and 38 were on the Tibetan flank, and twice War-ren reached the North Col only to be beaten back by the early arrival of the monsoon. He was a prudent judge of conditions, and not one to press on when faced with an avalanche sweeping the ascending tracks and tearing the north face of the mountain.

Even so, he and his companions made the first ascents of a number of lesser peaks in the Everest region. Quite recently he was delighted to receive a card from a university party exploring the same area in the hope of claiming virgin summits, only to find that Warren had beaten them to it years earlier.

On those early Everest attempts he became a close friend of one of the sherpas. Even after his retirement he and some 18 years later, after took on responsibility for developing the excellent medi-Sherpa Tenzing Norgay had cal library facilities the unit conquered Everest with Hil-

lary, the Warrens were delight-

pagne on the summit.

ed to welcome him to their But beyond his medical home at Felsted in Essex. career there remained his Warren continued to climb enduring delight in mountains until his early eighties, regularand in the art and literature ly visiting the Alps, twice that they have inspired. He travelling to Kenya and often to the Lake District and had a long association with the Wordsworth Trust at Dove Scotland. Notable were his traverse of the Cuillin Ridge at Cottage, Grasmere, where he pursued his interest in the the age of 72, two Scottish Romantic writers and poets -especially Wordsworth, Byascents four years later in his 1938 Everest boots, and his ron, Shelley and Mary Shelley final rock climb in the Lake - who visited the Alps and District on his 80th hirthday. helped to form a fuller appreciproperly celebrated with chamation of them.

now enjoys.

Warren was a man of During the war, Warren relatively modest means, but served as a physician at the his acquisitions as a collector emergency medical services demonstrated a shrewd eye for hospital in Bishop's Stortford, quality. He presented more than 200 items - including where he met his wife, Dorboth texts and pictures relating othy, who was a radiographer. to the Romantic movement — to the Wordsworth Trust. The He subsequently opted to specialise in paediatrics and was appointed consultant in pictures include Gainsbor-Chelmsford and then to the ough's Langdale Pikes, David staff at Colchester. For the rest Cox's oil of Crossing Morecambe Sands and a late of his clinical career, his area extended over a large part of Essex, and his main unit at Turner watercolour of Lake Como. There are also excellent watercolours by Edward Dayes of Hawes Water and of Chelmsford became renowned for performing exchange Derwent Water, and some blood transfusions on infants exquisite drawings, such as those of Borrowdale by George with neonatal jaurelice. His work with Peter

Barrett Jr and Joshua Cristall. Broughton made a great contribution to paediatrics by Warren also presented important pictures by Ruskin to the Alpine Club. He was an demonstrating the benefits of ultraviolet light on jaundiced infants, so reducing the need honorary member and vicefor exchange transfusions. Lat-er he and Broughton collabopresident of the club and an indefatigable curator of its pictures. A kindly, goodrated with Walshe in meticuhumoured man, he wound the lous studies of the management of patients with Wilson's three strands of his interests mountains, medicine and art disease, first using penicillamine and subsequently with other chelating agents. Added

 into a life of achievement. His wife predeceased him by seven years. There were no

AMBROISE ROUX

Ambroise Roux, French industrialist, died on April 4 aged 77. He was born on June 26, 1921

AMBROISE ROUX was for decades the ultimate man of influence in the overlapping world of French politics and business. He was by turns outspoken, cunning and arro-gant, but above all a connoisseur of the good things in life, from cigars to beautiful women. He created a mighty lobby of bosses and was consulted by presidents and prime minis-ters of Right and Left. He was relied on by fellow tycoons for advice on tricky legislation, particularly tax laws, and for help in seeing off hostile bids. He was extremely successful in wringing concessions from governments, particularly on corporate taxes and stock options.

He may have preached the need for greater globalisation of French business and the primacy of profits, but Roux was at heart a Paris-based networker par excellence. He defended the old order of the patronat. particularly at the time of the massive wave of nationalisations of banks and companies by the new Socialist Government in 1982. That wave included Roux's own Compagnie Générale de l'Eléctricité, a large conglomerate producing turbines for the state electricity utility, locomotives for French Railways, telephone exchanges for the post office and much more.

François Mitterrand, the Socialist President, was quoted at the time as saying that he could rule France with 300 people. Roux put his own estimate of "those who count" at 20 to 30. He wasted no time after the takeovers, hiring the Hotel Crillon in Paris for the founding meeting of his Association Française des Entre-prises Privées (AFEP).

Almost single-handedly he rallied the dispirited, dispossessed bosses, persuading them to wait for better days. These came finally with the first wave of privatisations of 1986-88, after the Gaullists and their allies had regained control of the National Assembly. The privatisations were conducted by the new conservative Finance Minister Edouard Balladur, who had been employed by Roux during his period out of office. Balladur continued the process as Prime Minister in 1992-95.

Roux was particularly close to President Georges Pompi-dou. Both men, erudite and bon rivant, liked to pose occasionally as wily Auvergne peasants", a kind of private jake. During the 1970s, Roux was officially President-Directeur-Général of CGE (later Alcatel) and unofficially

French Minister of Industry. He usually had a big say in government-led industrial restructuring. The young Jacques Chirac, then in Pompidou's "cabinet", became an early admirer of Roux's backroom skill at achieving consensus. Many of the captains of industry in France today owe much to Roux's early patronage or career advice, and in

return they hastened to appoint him to their boards. Ambroise Roux was the only son of a rich company director who had married a member of the Poulenc family, one half of the later Rhone-Poulenc pharmaceutical giant. He attended the Ecole Polytechnique, and when the school moved to Lyons in 1940, Roux met a future business ally in Guy Dejouany, who later ran Compagnie Générale des Eaux. another big conglomerate, now Vivendi. Jean-Marie Messier, the current Vivendi chairman, is a one-time Roux protégé. After a short period in minister-ial office during the Fourth Republic, Roux was hired by an old schoolfriend at the Compagnie Générale d'Electricité (CGE) and rose to the top

without ever investing a single franc in his own company. In 1969, he divided up a whole industrial sector, keep



ing trains and turbines plus telephone equipment for CGE. but leaving armaments to his rival, Thomson. He tried and failed later to corner both the nuclear and computer markets in France.

His AFEP lobby became the most powerful in the country with prominent patrons queue-ing to join. These people didn't really know one another until I brought them together," he said once. The organisation now has the 60 top French businessmen as members.

But as the business world became less cosy, Roux gradually began to lose his hold. He championed the maintenance of old-style cross-shareholdings between big companies, arrangements designed to block outsiders seeking to break into the club. But these core shareholdings, or noyaux durs, fell out of favour as a much more aggressive form of capitalism gained ground in France, as is evident in the current French banking wars and the fierce fight between the luxury-goods tycoons Pin-ault and Arnault. Roux could no longer keep these people in check, although he sat on almost all their boards.

Late in life he developed a passion for the paranormal, about which he wrote books. That obsession and his royalist views were considered quaint eccentricities, but his recent endorsement of a right-wing alliance to include the extreme right Front National lost him support and he was being eased out of AFEP at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, a

son and a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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Holmden of Edgefield,
Norfolk, previously of
Surrey, peacefully oo
April 6th aged 72 years.
Husband of Anne. Service
of Thanksgiving at
Edgefield Church, Norfolk
on Friday April 16th at
3pm. Enquiries to Peter
Taylor Funeral Services.
Holt, Norfolk. Tel: (01263)
711992. CHEAPEST IN LONDON Phants Chicago, Saigon, All pop & up We deliver, 0171 930 8636 CORPORATE HOSPITALITY ALL TICKETS 5 NATIONS WORLD CUP RUGBY GRAND PRIX FOOTBALL, ASCOT CRICKET, ETC YOUNG - Auriol Vane Inée Hay Drummond) suddenly on 4th April 1999 aged 65 years. Much loved mother of Louise and Andrew. There will be no memorial **ALL TICKETS** service. A requirm mass
will be held at the
Carmelite Church, 41
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London W8 on Wednesday
14th April at 11 am.
Family flowers only but
donations if desired to
West I worken Action for **5 NATIONS** ENG Y SWEDEN BRITISH GRAND PRO ROYAL ASCOT 0171 283 4040 West London Action for West London Action for Children (WLAC) c/o Camp Hopson, 90 West Street, Newbury, RG14 1HA, tel: (01635) 522210. CREDIT CARD HOTUNE PRST CLASS ENTERTAINMENT WANTED RUGBY WALES Sext COATS, for costs purchas Best price paid. Please se enquires à details to box 5737 ENGLAND TICKETS FOR SALE

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GAINSBOROUGH RECOVERED

to this heavy clinical load was

a full role as administrator.

We have received the following statement:-The portrait by Gainsborough of the Duchess of Devonshire, which was stolen from the premises of Messrs. Thomas Agnew and Sons so long ago as 1876, has been discovered; and we understand that within a short time it will again be in the possession of the well known firm in Bond Street. "The Criminal Investigation Department of

Scotland Yard ascertained that the stolen canvas was hidden in a town in the western States of America, and the English officials, acting in conjunction with Mr W.A. Pinkerton, of the National Detective Agency of Chicago, informed Messrs. Agnew of the fact. One of the parmers immediately proceeded to America to identify the picture, and he is now on his way to London with it in his custody.

"It will be remembered that this painting was purchased at the Wynn Ellis sale for £10,605, a sum which up to that date was the highest ever paid at Christie's for a single picture. The canvas was cut out of its frame one night while on exhibition in Bond Street, and all efforts have hitherto proved fruitless to

ON THIS DAY

April 9, 1901

How a famous Gainsborough portrait, stolen from Agnews in London in 1876, was finally recovered from America after clever work by Scotland Yard and Pinkertons, the Jamous American detective agency.

Moreland Agnew arrived at his residence, Westbourne Terrace, bringing from America the long-lost portrait. The picture was removed from the train at Willesden for safety and was at once taken to Messrs. Agnew's bankers. Mr. Moreland Agnew told a Press representative that he had not the slightest doubt about the genuineness of the picture. He added that he went out to the States about three weeks ago to try to identify the painting.

and all efforts have hitherto proved fruitless to
fiscover it."

This he had done at Chicago.

Mr. W. Lockett Agnew said that he had seen

At 6 o'clock yesterday evening Mr. C.

This he had done at Chicago.

Mr. W. Lockett Agnew said that he had seen

the picture which his cousin had brought

over, and he was certain that it was the one stolen from his firm. He said that there was no foundation for the story about his firm's having paid a reward of £5,000 for the recovery of the painting; it would not amount to £1,000; in fact, he did not think they would have to pay much.

A Reuter telegram, dated New York, April 8. states:

The circumstances of the recovery of Gainsborough's lost Duchess are as follows: Detective William Pinkerton was in conversation with Pat Sheedy when the latter related the manner in which he had been able to repay an obligation which had rested on him for years, and mentioned the name of the man to whom he had been indebted. At this point Pinkerton exclaimed: "That is the man who stole the Gainsborough." Sheedy immediately volunteered to secure the return of the nicture if proper arrangements could be made. edy said his friend had turned over a new leaf and was now living honestly in England. He was the father of children who were nearly grown up and were ignorant of their father's offence. Sheedy first exacted a promise from Pinkerton that no attempt should be made to discover the identity of his friend while Sheedy was opening the negotiations. He made a trip to England and found that his friend was more than willing to permit the return of the picture.

Hopes of Kosovo peace moves

■ Nato cleared a "safe corridor" through its bombardment in the hope that the Cypriot mission to Belgrade would win the release of the three captured American soldiers, as President Yeltsin announced in Moscow that he was working on a new peace initiative to end the crisis in Kosovo.

Although there was scepticism that either move would bring positive results, the developments came on a day when Belgrade claimed that peace had been restored and that the offen-

Doubts over mortgage rate cut

Homeowners have been left in the dark as to whether they will enjoy another reduction in their mortgage payments after big lenders failed to follow the Bank of England in cutting inter-

Hague's strike

William Hague made a pre-emptive strike in the Newark by-election campaign but had to share star billing with the Tories' first woman communications chief, Amanda Piatell.....

Lawrence case leads

Police investigating the murder of Stephen Lawrence were following up new lines of inquiry after the five suspects broke their public silence about the killing Page 2

Owen booked

Michael Owen, the teenage football prodigy, has signed sport's most lucrative publishing deal. worth more than El million (or three books

Pregnancy warning

Women who drink a glass of wine each day during their pregnancy could be doing more harm to their babies than if they smoked, according to research which says that a woman who drinks between five and seven units a week risks damaging the central nervous system of her child ... Page 10

Royal memories

The Prince of Wales took time off from official duties to visit the old friend who taught him about crofting and helped him to practise his faltering Gaelic: Donald "Splash" McKillop, a crofter with whom he stayed during a private visit 12Page il years ago....

Bleak drama

British television shows are considered too "gritty, dark and socio-political" by many foreign channels, a government-backed report said yesterday. Home-made drama, in particular, is regarded as "non-escapist"......

Supermarket inquiry

An inquiry into charges of profiteering and anti-competitive practices by supermarkets has raised issues that merit further investigarion, the Office of Fair Trading said yesterday Page 14

Cot blamed

The collapse of a cot from Mothercare was to blame for the death of a nine-month-old baby, an inquest has been told. Alexandra Harvey choked to death when the side of her cot fell across her neck as she played in it.....Page 17

Nuclear 'theft'

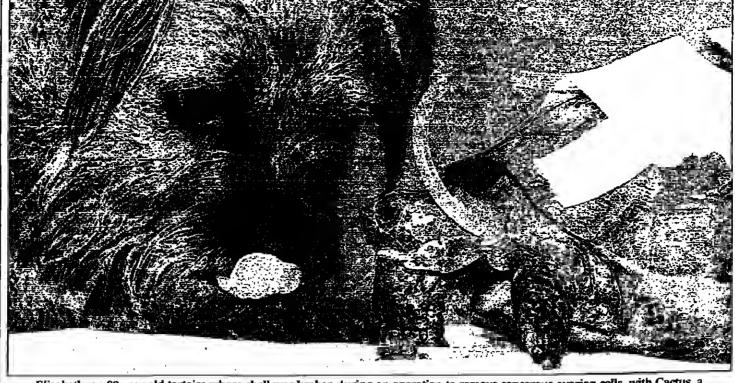
Fresh allegations that China stole top-secret nuclear weapons research from the United States in order to improve Beijing's neutron bomb placed a new strain on an already tense visit to the US by Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime ... Page 19

Stealing to order

The theft of two paintings from the Russian Museum in St Petersburg this week is part of a new trend of stealing to order, experts believe. ... Page 18

This sporting life on the sofas

The nation's sofas are set to groan under the weight of the male population this weekend as an unprecedented number of lop sporting competitions coincide. Sporting anoraks could be trapped in a remole-control quandry as they frantically flick from the Grand National to the FA and Scottish Cup semi-finals and on to the Brazilian Grand Prix



Elizabeth, an 80-year-old tortoise whose shell was broken during an operation to remove cancerous ovarian cells, with Cactus, a four-year-old border terrier, at the British Small Animal Veterinary Association conference in Birmingham yesterday

ECB cuts: The European Central Bank surprised markets with a larger-than-expected half-point cut in its benchmark interest rate, to 2.5 per cent, in a bid to stimulate economic growth in Europe and boost industry confidence......Page 27 Sainsbury Jobs: J Sainsbury, the supermarket group, to set to announce up to 300 redundancies after deciding to close the headquarters of Savacentre Page 27 Digital subscribers: ONdigital, the television service, said that it had chalked up 110,000 subscribers since its autumn launch.... Page 28 Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 35.30 to 6437.9. The pound rose 1.52 cents to \$1.6108 and 0.21p against the euro to 67.25p. The sterling index rose to 102.6 from 101.9 ...

* SPORT

Golf: Colin Montgomerie was among the early leaders in the first round of the Masters with a two-under-par 70, a score matched by José Maria Olazábal... Page 52 Rugby union: Barrie-Jon Mather, the Sale centre and former rugby league international, will win his first England cap against Wales after the withdrawal of Jeremy Gus-

Tennis: Britain were drawn at home in the Davis Cup relegation play-off to South Africa, who are no pushover but give Britain a more than fighting chance...... Page 44 Racing: Bookmakers reported strong support for Fiddling The Facts, who may now start as second favourite for the Grand National .. Page 30 behind Double Thriller Page 46

London by stages: Benedict Nightingale reviews Paul Rhys's prim Hamlet at the Young Vic, and other Times theatre critics have a look at Notting Hill, Hampstead and the

ARIS

Barbican. ... Page 34 Oliver's father: How did Lionel Bart rise from East End obscurity to massive esteem? And why did he fall so fast and so far? Richard Morrison wants a one-to-one....Page 35 Pop 1: British progressive rock has a huge following all over the Continent but is largely ignored in its

homeland and Porcupine Tree, for one, are fed up... ...Page 36 Pop 2: David Sinclair on the new alburn by the violent but dangerously entertaining American rap star Eminem. Plus jazz and compilation

Tomorrow in

The Saturday Times

Meet

NHOL

TRAVOLTA

the family man

IN THE GLOSSY

MAGAZINE

MEDIA Nato news: A lot of the media's analysis of the Balkans conflagration consists simply of discussion of Nato strategy, just one of the in-CDs reviewed... stances leading to criticism that western news outlets are toeing

EN BRIEFINGE Lost boys: What makes girls get

better passes than boys in most subiects? New research offers some intriguing answers...

FEATURES

Splashing out: Is there any point in

paying pots of money for designer

Lookalikes: Baby-faced blondes

have become television's elite corps

- deployed by broadcasting bosses

to ease the most desperate situa-

tions, says Celia Brayfield. Page 21

Joe Joseph: "I can recommend an

expensive night at the theatre if you

don't mind your evening being regu-

larly interrupted by bronchial out-

bursts loud enough to drown out

even Ethel Merman"...... Page 21

.Page 20

Brutally expelled from their country the refugees face a grim choice between seeking refuge in neigh-bouring states, being settled further afield in Europe, and for those of fighting age, joining the Kosovo Liberation Army which is fast re-- The Irish Times

RADIO & TV

Preview: Shoplifters reveal their tricks and scams (ITV, 9pm). Review: Paul Hoggart found Simon's Journey inspiring......Pages 50, 51

OPINION

The long campaign

The odds are still strongly in favour of Labour forming the first Scottish executive. The struggle to be the largest single party in the parliamentary is, however, by no means settled.... .. Page 23

Asian enterprise

The success of Britain's irrepressible Asian millionaires serves not only as a mute reproach to the insular who once feared their immigranon. It offers evidence of the benefits of working together Page 23

No time for blame

Good working relations with the Macedonian Government are indispensable. However rough the Macedonian handling of Blace, that lostid encampment did urgently need

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

The collapse of "bombing alone" has been spectacular. The misreading of Mr Milosevic by Nato deserves to rank with Gallipoli and a Pearl Harbor in the annals of mili-

ANATOLE KALETSKY I welcome the Bank of Englands

decision to add more monetary fuel to an economy that may already be set for take-off

GILES COREN

tractiveness".....

And think of the suffering that could be alleviated by lines like "more than three pints of Caffreys Page 22 may cause delusions of sexual at-

Sir Jamie Flanagan, Royal Ulster Constabulary; Dr Charles Warren, physician and mountaineer: Ambr-

olse Houx, French industrialist; Ruth Gipps, conductor Page 25 STO LETTERS

Balkans war; business and EMU; police racism; British Museum's Great Court; political party logos; city charters..... Page 23

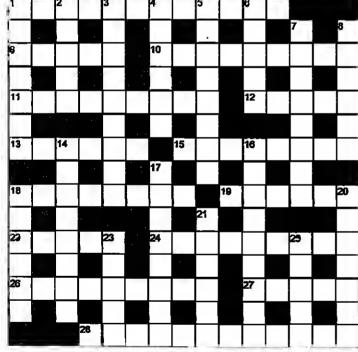
CHITTEN NUMBERS 10,15,23,27,29,46. Bonus: 38

Mich.

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The same of the sa

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,073



ACROSS

t Orchids in woman's hair (5.7). 9 Amusing American serving mush-

rooms, say (5). to Of necessity, wine-making does it Floods calamhous for wolves (9).

12 Crowd made to move (5). 13 Knocking back tablet providing stimutus (6).

15 Clubs with spatial problem -QPR, for example (8). 18 Bill cutting charge for profession-

al work (8). 19 Way of approaching onset of illness (6). 22 Amateur soldiers given backing

of the monarch (5). 24 Old bat reported back with a black eve 191.

Solution to Puzzle No 21,072



26 Not embarrassed to be struck on a girl (9). 27 Boat that, with one more, would

be half seas over (5). 28 One making new production of old musical that may create a shock (4,8].

Steal away the moment the bal-

loon goes up (4-3). 2 Stupid child caught in sandhill 3 Miser fell on leader of pirates (9).

with order (6). Supplier of nursery with lots of children to occupy (8). 6 Finished without beginning to be-

Casual waiter finally appears

come relaxed (5). Work like a robot, as co-driver? 8 Spreads out second trousers (6).

t4 Take a day off in this spring time? Just the opposite (4.4). Clergyman resting as a duty (9). 17 Hot day for a speed merchant [8).

18 Aim at prize offering university entry (6). 20 Lee in retreat (7). 21 Show resentment of new wife in

23 Climber has trouble ascending last stages of Annapurna (5). 25 Person driving tucked into hamburgers (5).

speech (6)

Times Two Crossword. page 52

- AAMEDIMATER 6330 401 740 6336 401 747 6336 401 748 6330 401 916 0336 401 188

OTHER MAN OFFICE

World City Weather Citements

44 Car reports by fax

ed der reports from nu of 195 cars 6334 416 399

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun sets: 7.46 pm Last quarter today London 7.46 pm to 6.16 am Bristol 7.56 pm to 6.27 am Edinburgh 2.06 pm to 6.22 am Manchester 7.58 pm to 6.22 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Pecycled paper mede up 46 03% of the raw materia

FREE BOOKS

FOR SCHOOLS



FORECAST ☐ London, SE England, E Angila, Central S England: any early cloud will break to allow warm surry spells Wind light, westerly, Max 19C (66F).

any early cloud will break to allow warm surny spells. Wind light, westerly. Max 19C (66F).

W Mildlander dry and warm with sunny spells. Wind light, westerly. Max 19C (66F).

Chennel Islands, SW England, Lake District, leite of Man: warm sunny spells intend, log on the coast. Drizzle this afternoon. Wind light, westerly. Max 17C (63F).

Central N, NE England: warm sunny spells this morning but cloudy this afternoon. Wind light, westerly. Max 19C (66F).

Bonders, Edinburgh & Dundeer mainly cloudy with rain at times. Wind moderate, southwesterly. Max temp 16C (61F).

0 14

☐ Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Ork-ney, Shetland: rather dull with outbreaks of rain, becoming brighter. Wind moderate to fresh, westerly. Max 15C (59F). U SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: mainly cloudy day with rain at times, heaviest in the west. Wind moderate, southwesterly. Max 16C (61F).

□ N Ireland: cloudy with rain. Wind moderate, southwesterly. Max 15C (59F).

□ Republic of Ireland: patchy drizzle, hill fog in West, mainly dry and bright in East. Wind moderate, southwest. Max 17C (63F). ☐ Outlook: Remaining warm in southern parts, but rain in Scotland spreading into the North of England.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY



Highest day temp: Aberdeen. 20C (68F); lowest day max: Larwick. Shetlend 9C (48F), highest rainfalt: St Bees Head, Cumbria, and Lowestoft, Sulfolk, 0.17in, highest sunshine: Folkestone and Margale. Kent, 10.3hr ABROAD

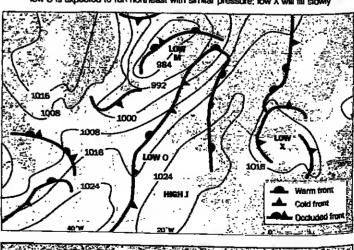
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Cost to taxpayer:

To make a donation, telephone:

THOUSE TO SEE STATE OF THE SECOND SEC 25

Changes to chart below from noon: high J will merge with ridge to its west and intensified M will fill at expense of new low forming over north Norway before transferring easi low O is expected to run northeast with similar pressure; low X will fill slowly



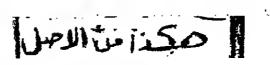
WICH TIDES HT PM 16/41 5.9 19/05 2.0 15/04 4.0 17/28 5.0 2357 2.7 22-51 4.1 22-31 4.1 23-29 3.7 17-12 4.7 16/39 3.7 16/51 9.8 21/58 3.4 16/57 PM 16:41 19:05 15:04 17:28 23:57 23:57 6:39 11:48 4:18 4:18 10:45 3:45 5:12 10:16 5:14 4:37 3:24 11:16 10:54 11:27 4:06 6:49 2:59 5:02 11:14 10:13 10:47 9:44 11:18 4:09 3:52 4:09 9:12 4:36 Abenticen
Avenmouth
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Dubin
Falmouth
Greenock
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Holyhead
Hull (Albert D) 17:05 2.a 23:15 18:29 18:15 4.4 5.2 3.2 4.2 2.6 3.1 4.2 4.1 22:46 2.7 17:37 3.2 16:59 4.4 16:09 7.0 6.7 23:39 4.8 22:46 17:37 16:59 16:09 6.6 20:38



RNL RESCUE UPDATE TAPRAL 1000 Total number of lives saved so far this year: Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: Cost to RNLI per day:

361 £222,000 £0 0800 543210 Lifeboats

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, (1900, Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd. (10 Box 498, Virginia Street, London Ef 988), telephone 037-732 5000 and also printed at Kitting Road, Present, Merseyside, L34 9488, telephone 035-549, 2000, Friday, April 9, 1900, Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY APRIL 9 1999

Euroland's bold half-point cut catches out financial markets

Bank and ECB reduce rates

EUROPEAN markets yesterday received a double boost as both the European Central Bank and the Bank of England decided to cut their respective interest rates. While the Bank of Eng-

land's decision to reduce base rates by a further quarter point to 5.25 per cent had been videly expected, the ECB's half-point cut took the markets

by complete surprise. It was the first time that the ECB has used its powers to alter rates, reducing its key refinancing rate from 3 per cent to 2.5 per cent. The Swiss

Sainsbury's

to shed 300

jobs from

Savacentre

ŀS

National Bank also decided to remain in step with the ECB, cutting its discount rate from ! to 0.5 per cent, its lowest ever.

Although the ECB has been under heavy political pressure to trim rates almost since the single currency was launched on January 1, the ECB had until recently seemed set against any reduction in rates.

Wim Duisenberg, President of the ECB yesterday insisted that the decision to cut rates did not represent a change in policy and had won the backing of a "large majority" on the ECB's 17-strong governing

council. "The decision taken today keeps monetary policy on a longer-term stability-oriented course and, by doing so, contributes to creating an economic environment in which the considerable growth potential of the euro area could be ex-

shortly after the decision. However, he added that the ECB had chosen to make a larger than expected cut in rates because it wanted to end market expectations of a further cut. "t would like to be sure that is it." he said, rejecting claims that

the Bank had refrained from

ploited," Mr Duisenberg said

making an earlier cut in rates because of concerns about the value of the euro, which has depreciated by as much as 10 per cent against the dollar during its brief lifespan.

We are not at all dissatisfied with the level of the euro," Mr Duisenberg said.

The half-point cut came too late to boost equity markets but sent the euro higher on foreign exchanges at once. It jumped to \$1.088 at one stage but failed to hold its highs, quickly slipping back towards \$1.078, only marginally above the day's lows. gave only a muted reception to Traders, however, said that the the cut with shares falling vic-

rate cut could improve the euro's short-term outlook as it would boost confidence in the European economy.

The pound also made strong gains against the dollar with traders concluding that the MPC's sixth reduction in seven months had greatly en-hanced the chances of a soft landing for the economy. The pound climbed a cent

and a half against the dollar to close at \$1.6108 while the euro fell from 67.66p to 67.25p. The stock market, however,

de with the consensus that the MPC will reduce rates by only a further quarter point this year. The fact that the Bank did not

tim to profit-taking after the

record-breaking run earlier this week. The FTSE 100 index

of leading shares closed down

vinced that the Bank is close to

the bottom of the rate-cutting cy-

Analysts are increasingly con-

35.3 at 6.437.9.

publish an explanatory statement with its rate decision was seized on as evidence that the decision was close run with perhaps only a bare majority of the

decision only a hikewarm welcome, claiming that with the pound still highly valued it would do little to relieve the pressure on exporters.

> Savers first, page ! Anatole Kaletsky, page 22 Letters, page 23 Commentary, page 29

LINKS

L'Oreal springs sales

BY CARL MORTISHED

surprise

L'OREAL, the French cosmetics and pharmaceuticals firm. stunned the market yesterday by revealing a near-10 per cent rise in sales in the first quarter.

The company, which owns the Lancôme, Laboratoires Garnier and Maybelline brands, increased sales in local currencies by 14.6 per cent. After currency losses, revenues were up 9.5 per cent to

Fr17.1 billion (£1.76 billion). Evidence that L'Oréal is continuing to gain market share sent the company's stock soaring 4.5 per cent oo the Paris bourse and renewed speculation that it might take oo Revlon, its struggling rival.

Revion has hired Goldman Sachs and Lazard Frères to advise on disposals after a slide in earnings caused a share price collapse last year. Howyesterday about a L'Oreal takeover, pointing out that the French company is already strong in make-up, Revion's

L'Oréal's first-quarter boost followed a big rise last year when cosmetics surged 10.6 per cent, including a 20 per cent rise in the UK.

Business Today

Oliver

Arts, page 34



Simon

The PocketPhone chief with the turbo-charged manner

LONDON MONEY

STERLING

Tokyo close Yen 120.77

London close_ denotes midday trading prices



Jordan

NORTH SEA OIL Brent15-day(Jun)_ \$14.50 (\$14.35) GOLD

Exchange rates

\$280.16 (\$280.05)

Commentary, page 29

Cellnet changes name

nounce up to 300 redundan-

cies after deciding to close the

headquarters of Savacentre. It

will be the first significant job

cuts at the group, Britain's sec-

Staff at the Savacentre head

office in Wokingham have

the results of an 18-month long

been told that they will hear

review of the business on Mon-

day. Sainsbury's refused to

comment last night on its

The move comes as Sains-bury's along with Britain's oth-er supermarkets, found itself in

the firing line as John Bridge-man, Director-General of Fair

Trading, formally announced that he was referring the sector

to the Competition Commission for a full investigation.

Sainsbury's, which admitted

after Christmas that trading

had fallen away and that its

plans for the business.

ond-largest supermarket oper-

ator, for five years.

By CHRIS AYRES

CELLNET, the mobile phone operator, yesterday changed its name to BT Cellnet in a move which height-ened speculation that BT is close to finally launching a multibillion-pound offer for the 40 per cent of the business it does not already own.

BT yesterday insisted. however, that the move was purety a marketing exercise. to take advantage of the growing demand for "integrated" mobile and fixedine telephone services. It refused to say how much the initiative will cost.

The rebranding follows several moves to bring BT and Celinet closer together.
It has long been speculated that BT wants to buy the 40 per cent stake in Cellnet currently held by Securicor, with analysts valuing the stake at between £2.5 billion

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT J SAINSBURY is set to an- John Cleese-led advertising campaign had gone wrong, has been trialling a new look for Savacentre at its Calcott store. The 13 stores in the chain . which was intended to be the group's version of a continental hypermarket - have far lower margins and sales per square foot than the Sainsbury's supermarkets. The trial look has more food and less clothing

and other non-food goods. The Savacentres will be run from Sainsbury's main head office in Central London. created to do the work.

One analyst said that the cost-cutting would be wel-comed by the market: "Savacentre has not performed up to expectations. Net margins compared to similar-sized Tesco and Asda stores are not good."

The last round of job cuts at Sainsbury's came in March 1994 when 650 head and area office posts were axed.

The inquiry by the Competition Commission — the replacement to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission will mean that Sainsbury's and Britain's other supermar-kets will be under the micro-scope for the next 12 months. Mr Bridgeman said he was concerned about barriers to en-

tering the market, the impact of rising land costs; price competioon; and the nature of the relationship between the supermarkets and their suppliers.

He also defended the techniques used by his officials in their eight-month inquiry. Dino Adriano, chief executive of Sainsbury's, attacked the research last week as "inade-quate and inconclusive".

Mr Bridgeman said: "So-phisticated economic modelling is required to take into account the firms' levels of investment and risk. We have used a number of measures and have not exclusively relied upon any one indicator of profitability.

Mr Bridgeman stopped short of saying that the supermarkets were making excess profits. He said: "I have to conclude that there is a level of profitability here which requires further investigation by the Competition Commission.

Profits inquiry, page 14 down on the December figure.



Shell cuts exploration budget by up to \$1bn

SHELL is tightening its belt with a cut of up to \$1 billion (about £600 million) in its upstream exploration budget. The oil company yesterday told analysts and fund managers in New York that oil production was flat in the first quarter of the year but the company promised to meet its growth targets for the full year. Shell has drastically cut investment in oil exploratioo and production, reflecting the tough environment and low

oil prices. The company announced a capital budget for 1999 of \$11 billion in December, of which \$6 billion was earmarked for the upstream business. However, Shell indi-cated that it might rein in the budget by \$1.75 billion if oil prices remained weak. Yesterday. Phil Watts, group managing director, confirmed that capital investment would be

Mr Watts said that Shell should achieve cost savings of \$300 million in the current year, part of a \$1.1 billion target of cost-savings for explora-

the Brutus field in the Gulf of Mexico with the construction of a tension leg plat-form, expected to lift 100,000 barrels per day from the 200 million barrel field.

nia, Texas and Venezuela.

tion and production to be achieved by 2001. The oil company is invest-ing \$900 million developing

Shell anounced \$4.5 billion in asset writedowns in December and declared its intention to sell 40 per cent of its chemical portfolio, including a half share in Montell, the polypropylene business. The write-downs included \$2 billion in oil-producing assets in Califor-

Yesterday, the company said it would sell stakes in certain deep water oil

projects to share risk as well as a share in its prestigious Malampaya gas to power project in the Philippines. In

addition a strategic partner is being sought for Shell's Venezuelan business. Shell's annual report for 1998 reveals that Mark Moody-Stuart, the chairman, was paid just over £1 million last year, including £370,000 in realised gains from share opdons. His total package fell from El.4 million in 1997. Both Mr Moody-Stuart and Mr Watts received no bo-

nus in 1998, a year in which Shell's net profits collapsed from \$7.8 billion to just \$400 million. Mr Moody-Stuart's base salary rose by 30 per cent in 1998 to £638,000 but a Shell spokesman said that the apparent increase in 1998 reflected his appointment as chairman half way through the 1997 financial year.

PocketPhone in talks with Palace

By CHRIS AYRES

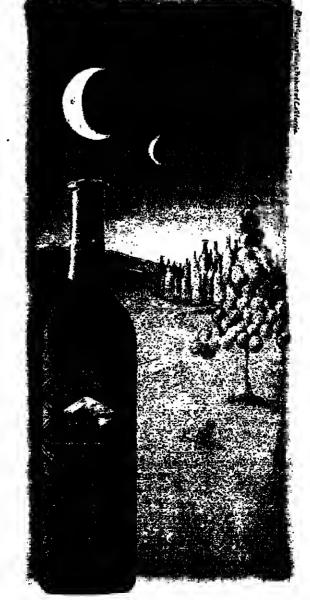
THE financial woes of Crystal Palace Football Club, which was recently placed in administration with debts of £23 million, could soon be eased by one of Britain's largest mobile phone retailers, The Pocket-

Phone Shop. The company, headed by Simon Jordan, is negotiating a shirt sponsorship deal worth £750,000. Mr Jordan is also planning to buy up to a 25 per cent stake in the club, having offered to buy 5 per cent earlier this year for El million. He said: "That same kind of money will now buy me a much bigger stake. My aim is to wait until it comes out of administration."

Mr Jordan, 31, is also considering buying the 50 per cent stake in The PocketPhone Shop owned by his partner, Andrew Briggs, for an estimated £30 million.

Profile, page 31

GARNET POINT



From the edge of the New World, a new, smooth, dry full-bodied red.

Web hoax lifts PairGain Gucci rejects new offer

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

WALL STREET thought it service, saying that PairGain had a dream deal when a fastmoving Internet company was said to be on the end of a takeover bid. Shares of PairGain Technologies, a maker of high-speed Internet equipment, rocketed 35 per cent as

dealers filled their boots. The only problem was that the whole thing was an elaborate hoax. The share-buying frenzy was sparked by a report, purportedly from the Bloomberg financial news

would be taken over for \$1.35 billion (£830 million).

it was a Bloomberg website." The hoax is the latest in a line of cyber-swindles foxing The supposed report was Internet investors. Mr Mcdrawn to the attendon of Internet users at a website that dis-Brayer said he assumed the cusses hot stocks, with the mesperson responsible on this-ocsage: "Just found it on Bloombcasion profited handsomely crg." The page looked and from the deception. "If you're going to go to this much trouworked exactly like the ble. you might as well make money on it." he said. Bloomberg internet service. The fraud was revealed by

Despite the dismissal of the PairGain, whose chief financial officer, Charles McBrayer, story as a hoax PairGain shares said the fake was masterful: were up 10 per cent at the close.

"You'd swear on your mother

By Sarah Cunningham GUCCI, the Italian fashion

house, yesterday rejected an increased takeover offer from LVMH, the French luxury goods group, saying it came with unacceptable conditions. But it added that it was "willing to continue discussions with LVMH to consider an

offer that is in the best interests of the company, its sharebolders and all stakeholders". LVMH said in response that no further talks were planned before the court hearing on

April 22 in the battle for control of Gucci.

LVMH had said it was pre-pared to increase its \$81 (£50.60) per share takeover offer for Gucci to \$85, but only if Gucci issued new shares. The proposed share issue would dilute other large shareholdings and enable LVMH to control the company by buying

just half of the 34 per cent of the shares in public hands. Gucci tried to preserve its independence from LVMH, after

it built up a 35 per cent stake in January, by issuing new shares to dilute LVMH's holding. It

then sold 40 per cent of the enlarged share base to French retail group PPR. This made it virtually impossible for LVMH to make a successful takeover bid unless PPR agreed. LVMH said an alternative offer of \$91 a share, which required the PPR sale to be annulled, had also been rejected.

Commentary, page 29

Stationery Office in demerger moves

By ROBERT LEA

THE STATIONERY OFFICE (TSO). the privatised former HMSO, has demerged into four operational companies as a precursor to separate flotations or self-offs, which will net big profits for its chairman, Rupert Pennant-Rea, and Electra Fleming, the City financiers.

The business - best known as the publisher of government documents. The Highway Code and as the printer

45 per cent rise in operating profits last year to £18 million, demonstrating a dramatic turnaround in fortunes. HMSO was privatised twoand-a-half years ago after accumulating losses of £50 million. Electra Fleming paid £54 million and raised anoth-

er £71 million to fund investment. TSO said it had completed a restructuring which gives operating independence to its four businesses: government publishing; Banner office supplies: document manageof passports - yesterday reported a ment, newly named Tactica; and security printing. Ownership of the companies remains unchanged.

A spokesperson for TSO said it is looking at all future options, including separate flotations or selling the divisions to trade buyers.

The business as a whole could command a price tag of about £200 mil-lion. At the time of the flotation Mr Pennant-Rea, the former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England who resigned after a tabloid kiss-and-tell scandal four years ago, and three senior colleagues including the group

for a 10 per cent stake. Existing managers and employees received a further 10 per cent holding.

The group executive team will now break up, with Mr Thian, a former chief executive of North West Water. remaining only as a non-executive director of Tactica, the largest of the four businesses. Mr Pennant-Rea. however, will stay as chairman of each of the four companies.

TSO said that after interest charg-

chief executive, Bob Thian, are es and a £2.5 million charge for the de-thought to have paid about £500,000 merger, group pre-tax profits for 1998 came in at £10.3 million on turnover slightly down at £261 million. It made dividend payments to its sharehold-

ers of £4.9 million (£3.6 million). The privatisation of the HMSO was dogged by controversy, with original government plans to sell the operations for about £100 million falling apart when due diligence investigations revealed black holes in the balance sheet. The National Audit Office later ruled that HMSO had been sold too cheaply.

SFA fines three for breaching trading

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

rules

THE Securities and Futures Authority yesterday imposed fines and costs exceeding £58,000 on three individuals for serious breaches of City

trading rules.

Baljeet Janjuah, the former co-head of Swiss Bank Corporation's global asset swap nese medium-term note.

After it was found difficult to sell, Mr Janjuah agreed to make the security more attractive by attaching a "put" op-tion, which would have enabled a buyer to sell the note back to SBC at the original price if markets fell.

£2.320 costs by the SFA. In a second case, the SFA severely reprimanded Leslie Terrence Commons, a former inter-dealer broker with Cantor Fitzgerald International, and fined him £10,000, plus £5,000 costs, for trying to conceal \$123,000 (£77,000) of losses incurred by Cantors in trades he did in Italian government

group, was fined £30,000 and was ordered to pay £9,280 costs after forging a letter in order to complete a trade in a Y4 billion (£20 million) Japa-

After receiving an internal directive to reduce SBC's posi-tions in October 1997, Mr Janjuah asked Riad Meliti, a junior member of the investment bank's Middle East desk, to sell the security.

Although this did nothing to cut SBC's risk exposure, Mr Janjuah confirmed the offer by signing an unauthorised letter on SBC headed paper. SBC subsequently discovered and withdrew the deal. Mr Meliti has been reprimanded, fined £2,000 and ordered to pay

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Australians block Coke acquisition

COCA-COLA, the soft drinks group, yesterday suffered a set-back in its acquisition of rival Cadbury Schweppes's brands outside the US, when the Australian competition authority blocked the deal. The US\$1.85 billion (£1.1 billion) purchase announced in December, involves Schweppes beverage brands in 120 countries outside the US. France and South Africa. Competition watchdogs in each of those countries must clear the deal.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission said that the acquisition was likely to breach its merger laws and "would be likely to eliminate any real prospect of effective future competition" in the Australian soft drinks market, It said the deal would take Coca-Cola's share of the country's market from 65 per cent to 75 per cent. Analysts said Coca-Cola is likely to offer to sell some of its non-international brands in Australia to get round the regulator. City Diary, page 31

Electra under fire

ELECTRA INVESTMENT TRUST has come under further fire from 3i Group, the venture capitalist which is making a £1.25 billion hostile takeover bid for the company. 3i said yesterday that Electra shareholders should question price comparisons their company has made between 3i's offer and Electra's share buyback. 3i said that, had Electra used 3i's closing price when it made its announce-ment on Wednesday, it would have valued 3i's offer at 742p, not 725p as Electra stated.

ICI company in MBO

ICI yesterday took a small step in its disposal programme by selling a chemicals trading business to its management. Chance & Hunt, based at Runcorn, buys in chemicals from more than 100 producers and sells them to businesses. It mainly serves UK companies and those located in the UK. The business last year had sales of £40 million and employed 46 people. The management buyout team plans to keep all the employees. ICl is trying to sell all its industrial chemicals operations and to turn itself into a consumer-oriented group.

Laird counter-attack

LAIRD GROUP yesterday moved to counter a sharp drop in last year's profits with news that it had railied in the first three months of this year. The engineer saw pre-tax profits before exceptionals plunge last year to £40.3 million from £69.6 million as it suffered problems in its car body sealing division. With one-off charges for restructuring and the sale of businesses, Laird's profits fell further to £23.7 million. Earnings per share fell from 36.2p to 9.3p. The dividend was increased to 15p from 14.3p.

Tempus, page 30

Job losses at Saga

SAGA PETROLEUM is laying off 40 staff in the UK as the Norwegian oil company launches a worldwide retrenchment in an attempt to save Kr400 million (£33 million) a year, a reduction in overhead of 20 per cent. The company, which has a one-fifth share in the Britannia field in the North Sea, is cutting 430 jobs worldwide and yesterday said that it would pull out of Angola, where it has an interest in Block I. A spokes-man said that further exploration had become too expensive.

Bell issues pathfinder

BELL GROUP, a provider of closed-circuit television surveillance, intruder detection, access control and fire alarm systems for banks, yesterday issued its pathfinder prospectus for a full listing on the London Stock Exchange. The group, whose chief executive is Patrick Curran, a former executive with Thorn Security Group, is looking to raise £8 million from the sale of 30 per cent of the company. Last year it had operating profits of £3.8 million on turnover of £34 million.

ONdigital claims lead in battle for subscribers

By Raymfind Snoddy. Media editor

ONDIGITAL, the digital terrestrial television service, said yesterday that it had chalked up 110,000 subscribers since its autumn launch and announced that it was planning to boost numbers by "premiering" top tTV programmes before they are shown on the ITV network.

ONdigital is a 50-50 venture by Carlton Communications and Granada, the two largest ITV companies. United News & Media, the third-largest, is also involved in digital terrestrial.

The news of programme spe-cials and the better than expected subscription figures, plus the launch in June of a £500 ONdigital integrated television set came as a boost for Granada and Carlton. In a falling market Granada shares rose 44p to £13.50, while Carlton was up 20%p at 634%p. Stephen Grabiner, chief ex-

ecutive of ONdigital, claimed that the 110,000 subscription figure meant that "like for like we have signed up more new subscribers to digital TV than

In its first four months on air BSkyB, in which News International, owner of The Times, has a 40 per cent stake, signed up 350,000 households to the SkyDigital service. Of that. 120,000 were new to multi-channel television.

for-like" lead because it is available in about only 70 per cent of the country.

SkyDigital has set a target of one million digital subscrib-ers by October, the end of its first year. ONdigital declined 10 set a target other than to say that it was meeting its business plan,

ONdigital said that it would break even when it has two million subscribers and that three million subscribers would produce an operating profit of £100 million a year; five million subscribers would bring profits of £250 million. Pre-launch costs were £57

million, less than the £80 million expected, but marketing expenditure rose from £40 mil-lion to £90 million. Of its plans with ITV, ONdigital revealed that it will be showing the final series of the long-running Inspector

Morse before it appears on ITV, while Prime Suspect spe-

cials and a final series of Glad-

iators will be broadcast before their appearance on ITV. A continuing series of such specials is expected although agreement with ITV will be on

a one-off basis. Alba, which plans to manufacture 100,000 of the ONdigital integrated Bush TV sets this year, saw it shares rise 34p to

Life insurers face £14bn bill

ary were "totally inadequate". Pre-tax profit was

£16.3 million (£16.5 million) for the year ended

January 30, 1999, on turnover of £236 million (£229 million). The final dividend of 8.3p (8.2p)

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

BRITISH life insurers could be hit with a £14 billion bill to cover the cost of guaranteed annuity options given to policy-holders since the 1970s, Standard & Poor's says.

SILENTNIGHT HOLDINGS, the UK's big-

gest bed and cabinet furniture maker, whose

chief executive is Bill Simpson, above, said poor

retail demand for cabinet furniture left profits

The credit rating agency said this figure, which is al-ready £3 billion higher than estimated, could reach £28 billion if long-term interest rates

continue to slide. This would dwarf the provisions of £14 billion to £18 billion that life insurers are making against the pensions mis-sell-ing scandal and would sharply reduce the industry's total surplus, put at £78 billion in 1997. Insurers have only recently woken up to the scale of the

problem they face with guaran-teed annuities, which allow their policyholders to take a retirement income of about 11 per cent on their savings compared with the 8 per cent offered by the best conventional

In an unusually grave re-

EXCHANGE RATES

Sells 2.50 19.79 58.17 2.345 0.8322 10.75 5.08 8.64 9.44 2.827 469 12.11 109 12708 1.1357 6.20 2816

port, Standard & Poor's gave warning that life insurers' statutory solvency for 1998 would be "significantly" affected.

Technical reserves in some cases would have to be doubled, the agency said, while some insurers would see their financial strength ratings

Although shareholders were likely to be shielded from the impact, millions of policyholders would suffer lower bonus rates and smaller returns as companies sought to cope with the extra financial burden. The growing pressure would also accelerate the pace of takeovers of small and mediumsized mutual insurers, the report said. Last year NPI fell to AMP, the Australian insurer.

after being fatally weakened

by its exposure to guaranteed Of the 16 large insurers surveyed by Standard & Poor's. only Equitable Life has so far been explicitly affected.

NatWest Business Deposit Interest Rates

NatWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 9 April 1999:

		Solicitors' Reserve Accour	11	
Ohi Gares Rate per carrum (N)	CELS AEDL (PG)	Bolance	New Gross Rate per cursus (N)	New AER (%)
		Instant access – interest poid quarterly		
3.70	3.75	£250,000 +	3.45	3.49
3.60	3.65	£100,000 - £249,999	3.35	3.39
3.25	3.29	£25,000 - £99,999	3.00	3.03
2.75	2.78	£2,000 - £24,999	2.50	2.52
2.25	2.27	£500 - £1,999	2.00	2.02
1.50	1.51	£0 - £499	1.25	1.26

The Annual Equivalent Rate (AER) is a notional rate which shows the gross interest rate as if paid and compounded on an annual basis.

NatWest

National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lothbury, Landon EC2P 2BP

Barclays Base Rate Change

Barclays Bank PLC

announces that with effect from

8th April 1999,

its Base Rate has reduced

from 5.50% to 5.25%

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FirstGroup gets GAG

By Paul Armstrong

FIRSTGROUP, the bus and train operator, has paid £10.6 million for GAG, which runs 400 buses in the South West. GAG, which reported an an-

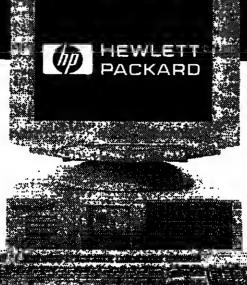
nual operating profit of £506.000, is not expected to contribute to FirstGroup's earnings until 2000. FirstGroup will satisfy the purchase with £2.7 mil-lion cash. £5.2 million in loan notes and by issuing 657,734 shares. It will also inherit GAG's net debt of £2.9 million. FirstGroup said GAG's fleet had an average age of 11 to 12 years compared with eight years for FirstGroup's buses. However, it said it was too ear-

ly to estimate the cost of the up-

grade of the GAG fleet. Tempus, page 30



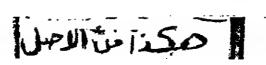
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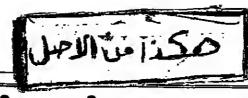


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o the European Central Bank does maintain a grasp of economic reality after all For three months, the ECB has seemed to delight in informing the suffering inhabitants - not to say struggling politicians - of the core European countries that there was nothing wrong with the euroland economy. It was a display of monetary virility that not even Oskar Lafontaine, the former German Finance Minister, could challenge

n

No sooner is Herr Lafontaine ushered into the political wilderness than the ECB proves that it can not only cut rates. but actually wrong foot the market in its generosity. Wim Duisenberg, President of the ECB, insisted yesterday that the half-point cut had been chosen to signal that there would be no further rate reductions. Perhaps, but it also provides the booster that an economy that is desperately short of confidence badly needed. With an almost total absence of inflationary pressures in the eurozone, a half-point cut is no more of a gamble than the expected quarter point would have been. The half pointer is a tactic that

the Bank of England has also learnt to employ. The three half-point cuts that the Bank has instituted in the past seven months have spurred the rapid turnround seen in the service and retail sectors of the economy faster have done. A half-point cut

MPC winning on points

makes a noticeable difference and consumers, in particular, have responded extremely positively to the sharp decline in mortgage rates. Confidence has returned to levels not seen since the first half of tast year. Dangerous concepts such as "housing boom" are even beginning to creep back

into the economic vocabulary.

The Bank's decision yesterday to return to only inching rates lower may well have been influenced by the state of the enced by this sharp rise in consumer confidence. The Bank's departure from normal practice in not publishing an explanatory note to enlighten us on the reasons for its rate reduction certainly suggests that the Monetary Policy Committee vote was a close-run thing and rates are

now clearly near their trough.

And it may be that, with its meagre cut, the Bank will have succeeded in easing the lot of industry a little without risking conding consumers on an inflasending consumers on an inflationary spree. For the first time since the Bank's rate-cutting spree began in the autumn, lenders resisted the temptation to automatically pass on the gains to homeowners. The financial services companies are increasingly aware of the predic-



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

ament of savers who have seen their rates dwindle to often subinflation levels. A half-point cut would have probably forced lenders to offer at least a partial reduction in mortgage loan rates, but yesterday's quarter-point reduction has allowed them for the moment to leave

rates unchanged. Fine tuning is a notoriously dif-ficult business, but the MPC might just have managed it.

OFT bites hand that feeds UK

ohn Bridgeman could not have offered a clearer invitation to foreign grocers than he did yesterday. He might as well have stood on the White Cliffs, blaring through a megaphone that overseas supermarket operators would be guaranteed a welcome if they would promise to come to Britain and stop Tesco doing so well. Should

one of them be tempted to launch a bid for Asda. Safeway or even Sainsbury, they are now assured that there would be no competition from a national player.

In subjecting the grocery business to a Monopolies Commission inquiry destined to last at least a year, the Director-General of Fair Trading has effectively put paid to any mergers among the big players. But if a Carre-four or a Walmart should be-come the proud owner of a British company, it might not exhibit the care and concern for British suppliers that food manufactur-ers and farmers might hope. Those Welsh lamb producers would be unlikely to find Carrefour a more supportive customer

than Safeway.
As the French Government tries to encourage three banks to come together to form a national champion, which would be the biggest bank in the world, our European partners must puzzle as to why Britain seems so keen

to weaken its own players. Mr Bridgeman says he is concerned that there are "significant barriers to new competitors in highvolume grocery retailing in Britain". Yet in recent years continental discounters have marched into this country and now have more than 850 outlets. Aldi, Netto and Lidl fight at the bottom end of the market, where price,

riding consideration. Mr Bridgeman cites the cost of land and property as a barrier to newcomers but a Carrefour or Walmart has deep pockets. That they have chosen not to battle to open full-scale supermarkets in Britain could just be because they do not see rich pickings to be had from challenging the exist-ing stores. Even the researches of McKinsey found that the Brits were not doing a bad job.

not range or quality, is the over-

But the Government had decided that the supermarket giants were a good target and Mr Bridgeman has obliged. It would

be a dangerous course if the OFT and the MMC were to become agents of Government, but one cannot help but feel that, when the MMC deliberations are concluded, the desire will be for some findings that will provide good material for Alastair Campbell's spinning wheel.

Raising the bidding in the fashion stakes

t may not be impossible to win a contested bid when 42 per cent of the shares are held by a single rival but it certainly is not easy. So the ingenious Bernard Arnault has come up with the idea of asking Gucci to move the goal posts in his favour. The amazingly accommodating Dutch company law would sanction such a move but, not surprisingly, Gucci is not inclined to do so.

In the battle of the handbags M Arnault's desire to get hold of Gucci is pushing him to up the price of the luxury brand to truly luxurious levels. But he is not about to put his \$5 billion on the table unless he thinks the deal is his. François Pinault may be insisting that his rapidly acquired 42 per cent does not give him con-

trol of Gucci but it puts him in a pretty powerful position. Having with his request for a few extra shares yesterday. M Arnault is now hoping that he can

persuade the courts to remove the obstacle of the Pinault stake. The energetic M Arnault will not be idle in the meantime. He and his team of three banks will soon start canvassing the smaller shareholders in Gucci, asking them whether they would not like the chance to accept his cash instead of risking seeing the shares fall back to the less luxurious levels where they languished before LVMH stepped in

But since M Arnault seems to want Gucci with all the intensity that fashion freaks pursue Tom Ford's latest creation, the minority holders may prefer to sit tight and hope for more.

Vyner touch

WHEN Tom Vyner was a top director of J Sainsbury, suppliers would quake as they headed towards Stamford Street. He had not swallowed the idea of "part-nership culture". Mr Vyner be-lieved in the adversarial way of doing business. And perhaps it still works. In a cute move, Lindsay Owen-Jones snapped up Mr Vyner on his retirement from Sainsbury. The result is that L'Oreal has boosted British sales by a fifth, much of it through the supermarkets. You can bet he got a good price, too.

Waterfall

to hit back

with results

BY DOMINIC WALSH

WATERFALL HOLDINGS, which this week launched a hostile £4t million bid for European Leisure, is to bring forward its half-year results in an attempt to defuse doubts over

the value of its all-paper offer. European, which rejected

the bid and is pressing ahead

with a recommended offer

from Allied Leisure, had cast

doubts on the profitability of

its snooker and pool cue rival.

saying that its offer failed to

contain a profit forecast or any

comment on current trading. Waterfall said it would accel-

erate release of the figures,

which would show "an entirely satisfactory result for the first half". It also poured scorn on

ratio in the second score of criticism of its accounting practices, claiming: "Waterfall has consistently adopted more conservative accounting policies than European in relation to

the depreciation of freehold

Waterfall's shares were off

and long leashold assets."

Swallow moves to sell all its tenanted pubs

BY DOMINIC WALSH

SWALLOW GROUP yesterday confirmed that it has put all 664 of its tenanted pubs up for sale in a move that will raise funds to expand its hotel and managed pub divsions.

The announcement came after the recent collapse of negoti-ations to sell 350 of Swallow's tenanted pubs and its Vaux and Ward's breweries to a management buyout team for 163 million. Failing the lastminute appearance of a fresh bidder, the breweries will close on July 2

Analysts believe that once Swallow's exit from brewing and tenanted pubs is complete, the company will become a sitting duck for potential predators. Last year, it rejected approaches from both Stakis and Whitbread.

Swallow said that it has asked its advisers, BT Alex Brown and Noble Grossart to shortage of interest. Both

sett all its tenanted pubs after receiving expressions of interest for them. It added that it would consider offers for "all or part of the estate, with or without the breweries".

One of the parties to have expressed an interest in all 664 pubs was Alchemy Partners, the venture capitalist behind the abortive management buyout. Last week, in a last-ditch attempt to save the deal, it offered Ct25 million for the entire package, including the two breweries, but Swallow rejected the price as inadequate.

The tenanted estate, described by one rival as "a hugely mixed bag has a book value of just over £100 million, although Peter Catesby, Swaltow's chief executive, believes it could be worth up to £130

Mansfield Brewery and Hardys & Hansons, the Nottingham brewer, are thought to be eyeing the Ward's brewery in Sheffield plus 196 pubs that carry the Ward's badge. Among the possible bidders

for larger parts of the estate are Pubmaster, Enterprise Inns and, despite its recent rebuff, Alchemy Partners. Nomura and Punch Taverns are also being mentioned as possible buyers. The disposals would leave

Swallow Group with 37 Swallow Hotels and 175 managed pubs, some of which trade under the Barcentro and Brarnwell & Co brands. Mr Catebsy said that the disposals should provide sufficient funds to allow him to make "some really quite serious acquisitions"

However, most observers believe that it is only a matter of time before Swallow attracts the vultures. One analyst said: "I doubt whether anyone will make a move unot the homet's nest of the breweries and tenancies is safely out of the way. But it then becomes a nice clean company with some very

Swallow's shares shed 3p to

Tempus, page 30



Tempus gives warning on potential hostile bid

BY CHRIS AYRES

CHRIS INGRAM, chairman of Tempus, yesterday gave warning that any hostile takeover bid for the advertising group from WPP, its arch-rival, would "destroy the value"

of the company. His comments were prompted by WPP's 18 per cent stake in the business, which has provoked City speculation that the marketing services company could make a bid for Tempus. Mr Ingram said: "We're enjoying what we're doing, and we have a long-term track record. Anything that got in the way of that, such as a hostile bid. would destroy the value of the asset that the bidder was trying to get hold of. I know what the key people in

this business want" Tempus yesterday reported a 40 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year to December 31, 1998, to £13.2 million, on sales of £1.2 billion, up 27 per cent. Earnings per share rose 15 per cent to 10.8p. and

the company said that on June 4 it would pay a final dividend of 2.37p, making a total for year of 3.1p - an increase of 14 per cent on the previous year.

Mr Ingram said: We anticipute that there will be good development opportunities during the year, both regionally in the US and Asia, and in the new media and marketing research sectors. Overall we are confident of another year of satisfactory progress."

Tempus, page 30

private company, for £1.2 million, some of it deferred, its offer at 112p a share. Euroagainst a £1.59 million book pean's shares rose just on to 9lp. The bid from Allied. value. It is one of six visitor whose shares rose 4p to 244p. attractions Queensborough put up for sale in September. is currently worth 89p a share.

cheesemaker at the Cheddar Gorge Cheese Company, which Queensborough, the

troubled leisure group, has

sold to Premiercross, a

Good News For **NatWest** Small Business

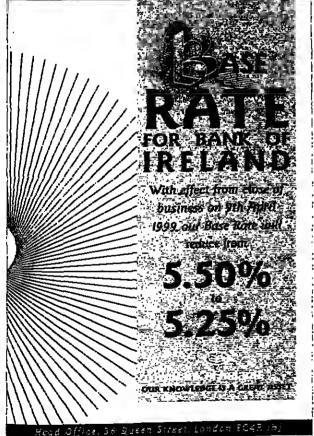
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Poon boosts Harvey Nichols

By Sarah Cunningham, retail correspondent



SHARES in Harvey Nichols yesterday rose by more than 3 per cent on hopes that complex restructuring plans announced by Dickson Poon, its Hong Kong-based chairman. could lead to him, or an outside bidder, buying the luxury department store group.
Dickson Concepts. the

Hong Kong retail and property group owning 50.1 per cent of Harvey Nichols, is to sell all its non-Asian assets into a company owned by Mr Poon. Shares in Harvey Nichols closed 6kp up at 195p, their

highest since last summer. Mr

Poon bought the business in 1991 for £51 million and listed it on the Loodon Stock Exchange in 1996. At yesterday's price, it is worth £107 million.

Mr Poon said that the latest move, which will cost him HK\$1.38 billion (£111 million). is designed to ringfence shareholders in Dickson Concepts from exposure to the heavy investment programme he has planned for his European business, made up mainly of Harvey Nichols and ST Dupont, a French luxury goods operation. Shares in Dickson Concepts have performed

poorly on the Hong Kong stock exchange amid worries about its Asian businesses. Harvey Nichots, which also

runs restaurants, including one at London's Oxo Tower. has stores in London and Leeds. It is to open a third in Edinburgh, and is looking at a fourth in Manchester or Newcastle. It is rumoured to be also considering a store in the City of London. In restructuring his busi-

ness empire, Mr Poon proposes to lift his stake in Dickson Concepts from 51.9 per cent to



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European rate cut set to push FTSE to fresh high

MICHAEL CLARK

SHARE prices on the London stock market are set to surge to record highs when trading resumes today after the latest spate of interest rate cuts across Europe.

Lower returns from the banks mean that investors are likely to turn in ever-increasing numbers to the stock mar-ket in order to maximise their

Yesterday's quarter-point cut to 5.25 per cent by the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee had already been factored in by fund managers. But the subsequent reduction in rates by the European Central Bank and a near 100-point rise by the Dow Jones industrial average in New York are likely to provide a further tonic to equities this morning.

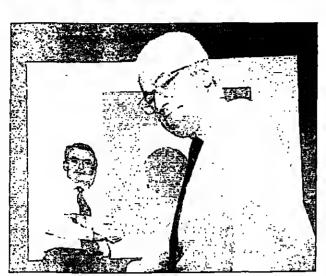
Unfortunately, both moves came too late to provide succour to a tired-looking FTSE 100 index, which closed down 35.3 points at 6.437.9. By contrast, the FTSE 250 index rose 15.5 to 5,514.0 in thin mading that saw a meagre 031 million shares change hands.
Smith & Nephew slood out

with a rise of oup to loo' p. The company has been talking to institutions this week and the state of play appears to be better than was originally thought by brokers. The boardroom upheaval at

Reed Elsevier, which has resulted in the resignation of two directors and the failure to appoint a new chief executive. has not deterred everyone. Collins Stewart, the broker, remains a big fan of Reed after turning a "strong buyer" three weeks ago at 502p. After climbing from a low of 428p in December to a peak of 640p in February, the price is now set for a stable performance in the months ahead. Reed finished 25p higher at 578p.

Great Universal Stores advanced 48p to 713p, excited by comments from various brokers. Warburg Dillon Reed has reiterated its "buy" stance on the shares while Merrill Lynch has been telling clients to "accumulate" and has set a

target price of 750p. Shaking off recent weak-ness, Cadbury Schweppes savoured a rise of 23p to 897! ap. is a "strong buyer" after set-ting a target price of £10.50. BICC eased 2p to 104p after division. The group is still awaiting firm bid proposals



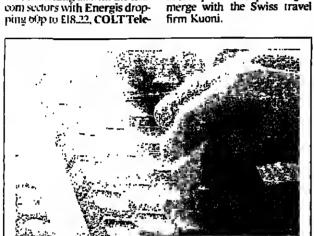
Ashley Martin, finance director, left, and Chris Ingram, chairman, saw Tempus Group edge Ip higher to 257%p

from Wassall which says it is prepared to pay 110p a share. Some of the market's recent high-flyers came in for profit taking, with ARM Holdings dropping 2021:p to £29.823: and Policy Master 20p to 238 p. ARM has come up from 750p in less than a year.

Profit taking also hit the tele-

com 27p to £12.28. Cable & Wireless Communications 15p to 780p and Vodafone 19p 10 E12.02

Airtours stood out with a jump of 304 p to 492p. Speculaiors claim that the group is ready to make a counterbid for rival First Choice, down 84p at 1761:p. which is planning to merge with the Swiss travel firm Kuoni.



EASYNET GROUP celebrated its move from AIM to a full listing with a rise of 171:p at 490p.

Internet service providers are all the rage among investors on both sides of the Atlantic these days. Earlier this week, Nasdaq-quoted Yahoo! provided another boost to the anoraks by reporting a trebling of earnfar as some sector followers are concerned, and even Dixons, up 25p at £14.21, and WH Smith, 72p better at 782 p. have enjoyed rerating, mainly because of their Internet connections. Another Internet stock attracting buyers yesterday was Geo Intermedia, up

Merrill Lynch, the broker, follows events on the Internet and has begun watching the fortunes of Easynet and AIM-listed ITG Group, steady at ommendations trading at hefty to many of their US rivals. They should strong revenue growth.

A sharp jump of 314p to 149p in the Servomex share price has prompted the company to reveal that it has received a bid approach. Bid hopes also drove Chesterton op higher, or 35 per cent, to 23p. Speculators are talking of a bid pitched at about the 30p level for the prop-

erty services group. News of further stakebuilding lifted Focus Dynamics 212p to 2512p. Clement Wheatley has spent £120,000 buying 500,000 shares at 24p in the loss-making engineer. It stretches his holding to 4.2 mil-

lion shares, or 25.6 per cent. Share buying of Burn Stewart Distillers by three directors added 214p to the price at 15p. William Thornton has bought 25,000 at 12vp lifting his hold-ing to 5.62 million. William Walker has bought 25,000 at 12p and now holds I.48 million and Ian Bankier has bought 10,000 at 12p stretching his holding to 115,000.

Regent lans firmed 4/2p to 175p after Peter Savage, a direc-tor, picked up 10.000 shares at 177p. Regent recently broke off merger talks with SFI Group, 1/2p dearer at 190p. There has been persistent talk that one of the big brewers may pitch for

Regent.
Tempus Group edged Ip higher to 257/ip after the media company weighed in with a 40 per cent increase in full-year profits to El3.2 million. This was far better than most brokers had been expecting and the media specialist said that it had "significantly" increased market share. GILT-EDGED: News of

the quarter-point rate cut by the MPC provided an initial boost to bond prices. But the absence of any statement accompanying the move unnerved investors. Shorterdated issues soon went into reverse and closed down on the day while the ultra-long end was barely moved.

In the futures pit the June series of the long gilt finished 12p down at £117.87 as 25,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2021 firmed 3p to £148.25, but Treasury 7 per cent 2002 finished 21p down at £106.53.

were little changed in early trading as investors took a breather after recent recordsetting runs. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 2.78 points to 10,088.09.

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TEMPUS

A lot to Swallow

ANY announcement from Swallow Group these days tends to cause a sharp intake of breath among shareholders. So it must have come as a pleasant relief when the statement that flashed up on stock market screens yesterday morning had nothing to do with collapsed deals, boardroom bust-ups, mass redundancies or directors' sackings.

That said, the confirmation that it has decided to put its entire tenanted pub estate up for sale - following the collapse of a management buyout of half the pubs and its two breweries - has more to it than meets the eye. It needs to be read in the context of persistent speculation that Swallow's days as an inde-

pendent company are numbered. Peter Catesby, the group's straight-talking chief executive, was adamant that it merely brings forward a strategy that has been in

place for some time — putting it in a position to concentrate all its efforts on its fastergrowth Swallow Hotels and pub concepts such as Barcentro and Bramwell & Co.

But some insiders believe that making the announcement now means that it will not look like a spoiling tactic in the event of a predator pouncing. Moreover, if Mr Catesby can move quickly on the pub disposal, he will soon have an extra £130 million or so to boost his firepower to make acquisitions of his own. He is known to be casting around for pretty significant targets, and any such move could also

help to keep the barbarians at bay.

A bid could easily lift the shares to 350p, perhaps a shade higher. But at 288½p the group currently looks fully priced based on a valuation of its assets, and it will be a while before the Catesby strategy proves itself. Hold.

FirstGroup

SHAREHOLDERS in First-Group, the bus and train operator, have endured a bumpy ride in the past year, but have not really got anywhere for their efforts. The company's share price has bounced between 350p and 430p, with a spike to 503p in September providing the only change of scenery.

The market's lack of enthusiasm reflects, in part, the perceived shortage of opportunities to grow through acquisition. Future purchases will almost certainly be of a bolt-on nature. FirstGroup's interest cover of just 41/2 times means that it would probably be unable to avail itself of any substantial acquisitions, even if they existed

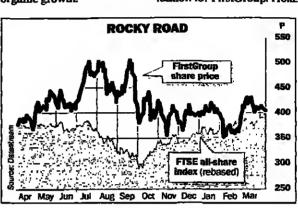
The company's organic growth prospects are brighter. Its experience shows that it can achieve returns of up to 25

per cent on capital invested in equipment and infrastructure, such as bus lanes. The theory states that the faster passengers are transported.

Given that price rises are not viewed as a way of lifting profits in the transport business, and most costs are fixed. higher volumes are the key to

the more they will use the bus. organic growth.

However, FirstGroup's firepower for acquisitions and significant capital expendi-ture is limited. The GAG purchase is expected to be earnings neutral in year one and the stock is already trading on a multiple of 18 times cur-rent year earnings, which is near the sector average. This all points to a period of consolidation for FirstGroup. Hold.



Laird

CLAMBERING from the wreckage of last year's results. Laird Group yesterday dusted itself down and declared it would be fine.

Despite continued losses at its car body seal business, Laird said that remedial action across its divisions meant that overall profits had climbed 20 per cent in the first three months of this year. Is it right to be valiant or is it suffering from shock?

The collapse in profits last year to £23.7 million from £67.1 million was slightly worse than the City had been expect-ing. But the message of cheer about this year's performance and the increase in dividend to underpin the optimism was encouraging. And from such a low level of profits, improvething goes badly wrong. Laird still faces difficult

times, however. The automotive industry is witnessing fierce price wars. The US divi-

DOLLAR RATES

sion of Draftex, its car sealing business, is not expected to see profits until later this year. Meanwhile, the whole of Draftex is being rationalised. Another of its operations - computer components and assembly - faces similar competitive pressure and its margins are likely to

be slight.
At 232½p, Laird's shares are a hold. But they could see some upside if Laird becomes the subject of some of the takeover speculation that has swept the small engineering

Tempus

IT IS tempting to see Tempus as a sitting duck, with Martin Sorrell, chief executive of WPP, slowly building up a stake in the advertising busiout yesterday, Sorrell is high-ly unlikely to launch a bid for the company, given that its present management (who want to remain independent)

own 40 per cent of its shares. Still, it is reassuring to know that WPP (which owns an 18 per cent stake) could pounce if the company began to flounder. And things do sometimes go wrong with Tempus. The company's UK business, for example, recently lost a handful of accounts and suffered a management shake-up.

Things now appear to be back on track, and Tempus has successfully positioned itself as a cross-media strate-gist rather than just a buyer of advertising space. It is also investing in the Internet, although the company was a bit vague about these plans

yesterday. With Tempus's shares at 2571/2p, the company trades on an historic multiple of about 24 times earnings. This is not expen vestors need further reassurance about Tempus's UK activities and recent move into the cut-throat US market. Hold.

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المكذان الاصل

l here can be few more potent examples of how peace is changing the Middle East than Omah Salah. At 31, he is the chief executive of Century Invest-ment Group, Jordan's largest industrial company. His ten factories make underwear for Marks & Spencer, casual clothes for the Gap and Banana Republic chains and cork caps for Pepsi Cola bottles. However, the big surprise is that almost all of this is either sold to Israel or exported in joint ventures with Israeli companies.

The company, which reported a turnover of £62 million last year, has been called "a role model for the future of the Middle East" by Stuart Eizenstat, US Under Secretary of State. Yet Salah founded it just four years ago on a whim.

"I was stuck in a traffic jam in Los Angeles, listening to the news on the radio. Suddenly I realized that this transitional period in the Middle East, from conflict to peace, had fantastic business

Manufacturing progress out of peace

potential," says the entrepreneur, who was educated al Pangbourne College in Berkshire.

Salah left his job and headed back to Amman. Overcoming his own prejudices, he made his way to Israel - which then had no official ties with Jordan - and called the offices of large Israeli companies. Several Israeli chief executives agreed to see the young Jordanian out of curiosity.

After the signing of the peace agreement between Jordan and Israel in October 1994. Salah's unorthodox methods began to bear fruit. Dov Lautman, managing director of Delta Galil, the Israeli textile giant, agreed to set up a fac-tory in Jordan which Salah would run. Delta has annual sales of £190 million and produces underwear for brand names such as Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren.

Century's joint venture with Delta, in the Irbid industrial estate, 80km from Amman, is now the largest garment manufacturing facility in Jordan. Century's nine other factories in Irbid employ more than 2,000 people.
"We do all the recruiting, take

care of the local infrastructure. sort out the logistics," says Salah. both sides, the peace treaty between the two countries has not produced many joint ventures. There is no free trade agreement between Jordan and Israel, and only £15 million worth of trade annually between the two couotries.

Salah says that co-operation makes good economic sense and

صكدا سالاهل



Salah: good economic sense

claims that Century has created more jobs than any other business in Jordan, where the official unemployment rate is 16 per cent - but which, according to analysts, is actually closer to 25 per cent. "People think the joint ventures are exploiting Jordanians, but if you ask the them build their factories in Jorhundreds of people that we provide jobs for, they say 'we're very happy to be working'. There's a lot of hypocrisy about this issue,"

In July 1995 Century went public. Large shareholders include the Arab Banking Corporation and the Jordan National Bank. The value of the company's shares on the Jordan stock market has doubled over the past year, and Salah plans to float Century on the London Stock Exchange later this year.

No wonder Salah is so enthusiastic about business potential in the region. "A lot of people will build a television factory and then say 'let's sell to Sony'. I want

investors are attracted to Jordan by the low cost of workers unskilled workers earn £90 a month. Foreign companies are also exempted from paying corporation tax in Jordan.

But the real pull for foreign companies is a new free trade agreement - Irbid was designated the first qualified industrial zone by the US last year, giving it free trade access to US markets. Salah is keen to sign such an agreement ith the European Union.

"The irony is, Jordan, Palestine and Israel all have free trade agreements with the EU. But mix them together and they immediately forfeit the right to enter the

Blair, Major, Kohl. They all say,

'yes, we've got to fix this'. Well, fix it," says Salah emphatically.

There is a catch. The US stipulates that to qualify for the benefits of qualified industrial zone status, 11 per cent of the materials used must come from Israel. If raw materials are used from both Jordan and Israel, they must each provide 20 per cent. This clause angered many Jordanians. The Israeunions have also complained, saying that cheap Jordanian wages are taking away their jobs.

Salah, with the fervour of the converted, hopes that more Jordanians and Israelis will come round to his way of thinking.

T've had a fantastic enlightening experience, where I've found that Israelis and Arabs can really get along. And everyone knows that the fastest way to get to peace is through economic co-opera-

DINA SHILOH

Mobile phone entrepreneur sets out his latest pitch

Chris Ayres traces the rapid rise of a retail

millionaire whose new goal

is a soccer club

f Joe Pesci had been born in Croydon, he might have turned out something like Simon Jordan. The 31-year-old mobile phone tycoon and aspiring football club financier certainly seems to have learnt much of his negotiating tactics from the American actor's mobster movies. In mid-conversation, you almost expect him to vault his desk, grab you by the collar, and whisper: "Do you think I'm a funny guy, buh?"

When The Times meets Jordan, he is standing in the centre of his tennis court-sized office - arms outstretched, upper-lip curled - explaining why he has issued a High Court writ against Ulrika Jonsson. Jordan's relationship with the blonde sex symbol began when he paid her about E650,000 to promote his successful company. The Pocket-

Phone Shop, for 18 months. Their relationship became strained when Jordan rebuked up late to a shop opening. It's easy to imagine that Jonsson did not appreciate being treated like a gormless 18-year-old shop assistant, but Jordan insists that this was not the rea-

son for their spat. The real cause remains unclear, but Jordan claims that Jonsson has a further £105,000 worth of work to do. Jonsson. unsurprisingly, argues otherwise. "I'm going to get that money." Jordan fumes. "I don't care if I have to pay more than £105.000 in court fees to get it. I'm going to get it."

Everything about Jordan tells you that he is man who has made a big pile of cash very quickly indeed. He wears the kind of outfits - Top Man meets Armani -- that you could easily imagine a Premiership footballer buying for his week-



Simon Jordan has turned a £30,000 investment into a company worth an estimated £65 million in just four years

end trip to Stringfellows. To complete the image, he smokes the occasional cigar and drives a silver Ferrari 550 to the office. Needless to say, it looks suita-The PocketPhone Shop's headquarters in a concrete business park in Slough.

"I suppose you've got to be careful about the signs you're giving out," Jordan says, referring to the £140,000 car (which he says was a "bonus payment" from The PocketPhone Shop). "But what's wrong with being very successful, and having all the trappings of it?" At least Jordan seems to spread his cash around: his personal assistant has a bright red BMW coupe, and the company's staff car park is jammed with other similarly ostentatious examples

from the German car industry. Yet Jordan's arrogance is partly justified. In just four years he has turned a £30,000 investment into a company worth an estimated £65 million. The son of a Daily Mail

print worker, Jordan went into business after deciding against becoming a professional footballer at the age of 16 (he signed youth forms with both Crystal pleting a degree in Computer Sciences, he went to work in the City for Dun & Bradstreet, the credit information group. At the age of 21 he decided to go it alone and set up his own mo-

bile phone company. After two years the business collapsed so Jordan moved to New York to start again. He be-came homesick and flew back to London to work for The Carphone Warehouse an experience that ultimately inspired him to set up his own chain of mobile phone shops, based on the same idea of offering cus-tomers handsets from all four of Britain's mobile phone operators. Jordan says his entrepreneurial ability comes from a passion for sport, and he views business very much as a game

that you either win or lose.

Yet the PocketPhone Shop

THE

was not entirely Jordan's own creation. In fact, he launched the business in 1994 with the help of Andrew Briggs, a colleague and former estate agent. Slough, with the company's headquarters migrating from a small room behind the counter to the building upstairs, then to a 13,000 sq ft business park around the corner.

¬ he PocketPhone Shop now has more than 120 outlets throughout Britain, employing more than 650 staff, and is currently in talks to buy a chain of 22 shops in Australia. Jordan is also planning to move the head office again. this time to a 41,000 sq ft office block, also in Slough.

Jordan is clearly an inspiring boss, but he also appears to have created a culture of fear within The PocketPhone Shop. He has just speni £250,000 hiring a team of "mystery shop-pers" to assess customer serv-

ice in every outlet, and he admits that some of their reports resulted in "disciplinary proccedings". He is spending a further £250,000 installing twocomputer terminals, so he can look in on staff at any time of day from the comfort of his Slough office. "The staff will definitely not like it," he says with relish giving the impression that the investment is all

part of some schoolboy prank. Like most entrepreneurs, Jordan says he finds it hard to relax outside work. He has even fitted his car and his six-bedroom home in Cookham with an elaborate computer system that tells him exactly how many mobile phones are being sold by The PocketPhone Shop at any moment in time - and exactly which employees in which stores are responsible for the sales. Presumably, the technology will also eventually

allow him to watch them. He says he avoids socialising with other mobile phone in-

dustry big-wigs (he appears to have a particular dislike for Charles Dunstone, founder of The Carphone Warehouse). time with his girlfriend. However, he clearly enjoys throwing parties, and proudly reveals that he recently enter-tained Mike Reid (aka Frank

Butcher from EastEnders). At the moment Jordan's only sizeable business interest aside from The PocketPhone Shop is Crystal Palace, his beloved football club, which is facing financial collapse. Jordan says he is negotiating a £750,000 threeyear shirt sponsorship deal with the club, and is interested in buying a stake of up to 25 per cent. But he is aware that his involvement with the troubled club, which recently went into administration, could ruin his image in the City, potentially harming a flotation of The PocketPhone Shop. "I'm a big fan of Palace, but I'm not stupid," he says. "I'm not putting

my directorship in jeopardy." Meanwhile, Jordan also has plans to overhaul The Pocket Phone Shop's share structure. He admits that he is interested in buying Briggs's 50 per cent stake in the company for about £30 million, with the ultimate intention of floating the business within two years. "A busi-ness has one leader," Jordan says, without blinking. "I decided some years ago that that would be me. Andrew wants to Jordan insists that the parting of ways is amicable. As if to prove it, he has decorated his office wall with an enormous

photograph of himself with his arm around Briggs, taken at one of the company's summer balls. Both men are wearing dinner jackets, clutching champagne glasses and beaming. Jordan, however, looks by far the happier of the two.

New system sees car sales march ahead

Worried manufacturers perked up by T-reg tonic, says Arthur Leathley

AR manufacturers yesterday declared T to be a success as they celebrated better than expected sales growth last month on the back of the first stage in the twice-yearly plate change. March sales soared by more

than 70 per cent on last year as customers reacted to heavy discounts on some T-registration

The unexpectedly high sales figures saved the motor industry from a catastrophic first quarter after the huge slump in orders during January and February. The 370,000 new registrations ensured a firstquarter increase of 2 per cent, after sales had slipped by more than a quarter in the opening two months.

Although the new figures brought relief to an industry braced for a fall in sales over the year, there was little cheer for troubled Rover, which again saw its market share dip.

Rover has consistently seen its share slip since the end of last year, and last month's fig-ures showed a drop from 10 per cent to 7 per cent, leaving it well behind market leaders Ford and Vauxhall and also trailing Peugeot once again. British manufacturers suf-

red a fall in market penetration as imports continued to grow, especially from Eastern Europe and the Far East. The rise in car sales sur-

prised industry leaders, who expected September to be by far the strongest month for orders under the new six-month-

ly plate changes. Some had feared that companies and private buyers would delay placing orders un-

til after last month's Budget Although the Budget contained heavier taxes on company cars and fuel, manufacturers do not expect the measures to harm sales.

Senior industry figures admit, however, that they do not know whether September will also show a bigger increase than originally forecast, or whether the March increase will be at the expense of orders at the next plate change.

Despite the overall rise in sales over the first quarter, manufacturers are not altering their overall forecasts of a 9 per cent fall in annual sales to two million.

Roger King, acting chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "The new plates have clearly been a big hit with customers and we are pleased to see that the switch to a twiceyearly system is going so well."

he March boom helped sales for the first three months of the year to total 622,562, a 2.1 per cent increase on the first quarter of

Ford celebrated the arrival of its award-winning Focus as Britain's top-selling car. The Foreplacement for the popular Es-cort, beat off the challenge of Ford's own Fiesta to top the March 1999 sales charts.

The March 1999 top ten sellers were: 1 Ford Focus. 2 Ford Fiesta, 3 Vauxhall Astra. 4 Vauxhall Corsa, 5 Vauxhall Vectra, 6 Renault Megane, 7 Renault Clio, 8 Volkswagen Golf, 9 Ford Mondeo, 10 Peugeot 206.

In the can

THE mighty Coca-Cola Corporation faces an unaccustomed defeat in Paris today and a court ruling that will end its long attempt to buy Orangina. the French soft drink with the distinctive pear-shaped bottle. Coke first tried to buy the soft drinks business from Per-

nod Ricard at the end of 1987 for £520 million, but the deal was stopped by the French Finance Ministry last autumn after complaints from Pepsi. Coke appealed to the Conseil d'Etat. France's highest court, which will rule today. Everyone expects the Ameri-

cans to lose and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, France's Finance Minister - "looking a bit tired these days," says my in-



formant unkindly - to emerge victorious. Coke will have to walk away. This being France, defeats for the Government in the Conseil are as rare as ministers without mistresses.

MOST former Tory Cabinet ministers are festooned with non-executive directorships by now, but one has only just succumbed to his first. Sir George Young, known for his fondness for bicycling everywhere — "in London only," he adds — and his dislike of smoking, is joining the sheltered housebuilder McCarthy & Stone.

They approached me directly." he tells me. "I haven't been looking for any directorships this is the only one, and I only took it on because I've always been interested in housing. He was, after all, Housing Minister for almost four years.

Forest player

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE Novelli has persuaded his countryman David Ginola, the Spurs footballer, to help to launch his latest acquisition, Gordleton Mill, a country house hotel in the New Forest. This is something of a return to Novelli's roots because he earned his first Michelin star at the hotel's restaurant six years ago. The French chef, whose six



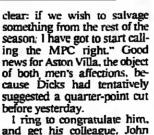
more than £6.5 million a year, is thought to have paid considerably less than the £1.5 million asking price for Gordle-ton. Novelli has also just been named one of the UK's "50 most alluring men", he tells me smugly, adding that Ginola failed to make the list.

On points

GEOFFREY DICKS, economics analyst at Greenwich Nat-West, included a plaintive memo to Mervyn King at the Bank of England in his latest forecast, published before yesterday's base rate cut.

He admitted that, month by month, he has had a bad run of form in predicting the Monetary Policy Committee's deci-

"This run predates the loss of form of a certain football team that we both support." he says sadly. "The message is



I ring to congratulate him, and get his colleague. John O'Sullivan. "Villa isn't mentioned around here any more," he says with a hint of satisfaction. "Earlier in the season you never heard an end to it, but it's all gone very quiet of late."

OVER at Financial Times Information they have abolished history. From April I the various FTSE constituents were reorganised. As a result, a colleague has just discovered, it is impossible to call up on screen any of their past performances. The FT people are unrepentant. "We always knew that in the month of April there would be no history," one tells me cheerfully.
The data will be available at the end of this month." Still, I get the impression they would rather no one had noticed.

Paint it black

DIRECT advertises itself as Europe's leading direct marketing magazine and distributes a stylishly black media pack. Executives are encouraged to staple their business cards, also modishly black, to the front cover before they distribute the packs.

As you can see, the effect is not always as intended.

MARTIN WALLER city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Black spot: the front cover of Direct's media packs

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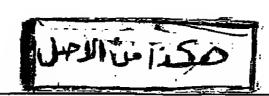
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JAZZ Kyle Eastwood brings his band to London PAGE 35

THE TIMES

POP The sound of violence from Eminem

PAGE 37



Prim, proper and a bit of a weed

hen Claudius and his courtiers enter the Young Vic for the version of The Mousetrap that Agatha Christie did not write. they are greeted by an odd sight, tr is Paul Rhys's Hamlet posed with arms outstreiched beside a tree, a brown wig and a crown of thorns on his head. Is he playing mad? Is the direcior, Laurence Boswell, signalling to us that the play occurs in a Christian context, and that the prince must die to cure ronen Denmark? Or is it. as I felt, an inadvertent indication of the limitarions of Rhys. who more than once put me in mind of the gentle Jesus, meck and mild, of Charles Wesley's sennmental hymn.

Boswell's four-hour production occurs on and between two small black stages linked by a retractable black causeway. It is a sening that invites fluency and simplicity, and on the whole that is what the flanking spectators get. Don't ask me why the "seafaring men" who deliver Hamlet's missive resemble members of Smersh fresh from hijacking a nuclear sub, or why Rhys orates about destiny while scrubbing his nails and Yor-ick's skull inside a hot sunken bath, or why the players look as if they are auditioning for the tramps in Waiting for Godot, or why at the end Chinese-style model warriors line the causeway. Just try to believe me when I say that, considering it mixes guns and swords, medieval robes and modern trousers, this is not a notably tricksy revival.

But is it a particularly good one? There I cannot be so sure. Rhys is undeniably one of our finest young actors, but he is tackling a part that relentlessly exposes any holes in a performer's range. Where is Hamlet's fire and frenzy? Or the pride, vindictiveness and ambition of which he accuses himself, or the soldier's eye and sword that impress Ophelia.

THEATRE Hamlet Young Vic

or the evidence for Fortinbras's claim that he would have proved most royal, or the scathing humour that some modern actors have found in

the character? Nowhere much. Well, there is no such being as a complete Hamlet. Some may find Rhys's interpretation a bereft but inadequate son who actually uses his last moments to cradle the mother who has followed his adored father to purgatory - more than adequate. He quivers and throbs with sensitive intelligence and fastidious feeling. But his more robust moments. as when he grapples on the ground with Ophelia, seem forced. There is a hint of prim ness in his manner as well as of Michael Howard in his vowels. To be blunt, I thought him

As Ophelia, Megan Dodds is too cool, too unfazed by Hamlet's rejection, for her fall-ing apart to be wholly credible; but I suppose she could argue that the death of Robin Soans's punctitious but fond Polonius has helped to motivate her. Meanwhile, Suzanne Bertish does a nice, subtle job of suggesting Gertrude's growing alienation from Donald Sumpter's Claudius, as does Sumpter of showing his alienation from health, happiness and himself. But I suspect the performance that will spick in my mind is one that defiantly contradicts Tom Stoppard's sympathetic view of the attendant lords. Was there ever such an ambitious creep as Leo Wringer's bowing and sometimes prostrate Rosencrantz? Beside him, Malvolio might be a rebellious teenager.

> BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

t is a horribly familiar scenario. A teenage girl goes missing on holi-day. Nothing is heard for months. Then a man is caught, a conlession is extracted, a trial begins. The gruesome details are splashed across the papers: the family is besieged by intruders and wellwishers. How on earth, we must all have wondered, do they cope with the waiting, the realisation of their worst fears, the public gaze, the very existence of the wrecker of their lives?

In quite different ways, of course, but Zinnie Harris's bleak little play tries to imagine the effects on one such traumatised family. It opens on the day of the dreaded knock on the door. The missing girl's younger sibling Gill is huddled in imaginary conversation with her beloved big sis. She discovers her mother Monica in a furious flurry of uncharacteristic domesticity. The truth flies out, and both tentatively begin to manueuvre around each other's pain.

Harris catches the child's voice convincingly: the young Julia Malewski is impressively natural and direct as Gill. The mother-daughter relationship, mot-

Fiends and relations

By Many Wounds Hampstead, NW3

ed in nicely observed and sometimes comic detail, also rings true. A suitably harrowed-looking Suzanne Burden, all searching eyes, nibbling teeth and fidgeting fingers, is excellent as Monica. Battling to retain her composure or simply too shocked for anger, she is tautly focused throughout.

But for all this, I remained unmoved.

The script - and particularly in the sec-

ond half, set during the trial in France fails to hang together. The problem lies mostly with the character of Monica's partner Mike. Harris never quite knows what to do with him, and neither does Mark Hadfield. He starts off compas-sionate; by the end, after witnessing the trial, he is hellbent on self-mutilation and almost incoherent with rage. This he directs at Monica, unable to countenance her apparent equilibrium.

You can see where Harris is going: she is trying to suggest that hearing such harrowing things breeds an irralional resentment of those who remain less soiled, and heaps heartache on tragedy by destroying one's closest relationships. But the transformation fails to make sense. So, too, with the macabre ending, which abruptly hits quite a false note of catharsis. Elsewhere Harris plausibly suggests that people in extreme circumstances react in quite unexpected ways; here her script tries too hard to invert normality, and ends up seeming merely bizarre.

NIGEL CLIFF



In the embrace of madness: Megan Dodds (Ophelia) and Paul Rhys (Hamlet) in Laurence Boswell's Young Vic production

Murder on the magic floor

espite exposure to the crushing banality of by Bernard-Marie Koltes, I set off with some enthusiasm for this one, since many reports on its British premiere at Stratford praised the quali-ty of his writing, and all admired the mysteriously light-sensitive floor of Jeremy Herbert's set and James Macdonald's cool, precise direction.

Koltes was inspired to write the play, in his last months before dying of an Aids-related illness in 1989, after seeing four photos of a handsome young killer on a wanted poster. They seemed to be pictures of four different men, and this became the germ of his hero's chameleon-like adoption of Roberto Zucco Barbican Pit

knowability at his immost heart. After killing his father, he escapes from jail, strangles his mother, then stabs an inspector and shoots a teenage boy; he gives the boy's bored mother an experience to remember, he seduces a young girl and, because he is a character in a French play, his speech is either curt or madly rhapsodic. Asked what is on his mind after a fight, he rethe immortality of the crab, the slug, and the dung-beetle."

ers gather and discuss the situation as though it were a play. More typical are the scenes where one character delivers a lengthy speech to another

ing at the materialistic trough.

woman hostage and holds a gun at her son's head, onlook-

Like Genet, and to some exmoving. This certainly contrib tent like Gide, Koltès adores utes to the play's weird artifici the handsome killer he creality, counterpointing a crisp translation by Martin Crime ates and appears to want him that caroms from street argot to be seen as a man who, unburdened by conscience, perto metaphysics. Zucco, who reforms the dreadful deeds the mains a cipher, is given the rest of us dare not to do. To esrequisite alienated air by tablish his heroic status Zucco Zubin Varla, moving through moves through a society space as if conscious of every where almost everyone else is floating atom in it. a hypocrite a sadist or gorg-

The acting by three of the women. Mairead Mckinley. In the riveting scene in the park where Zucco takes a Cathryn Bradshaw and Diana Kent, is particularly vivid. and the floor that retains for a that have fallen upon it is fascinating. But the play itself strikes me as disagrecable and dishonest.

The keys to the political asylum

play set on the Serbian planes fly overhead on bombing missions cannot be faulted for being out of date. Jeremy Kingston writes. It so happens that the targets lie in Bosnia, but since Balkan history always alternates between despotism and slaughter, it is no surprise to learn that the play is supposed to be set in the year 2000. This year Kosovo, next year Macedonia: death's carousel sometimes whirls faster but never stops

going round. Hristo Boytchev is from Butgaria, a country currently at peace, and though the war next door impinges on his characters, its battles remain offstage. Most of the play is set in the ruins of a monastery, cut off by snowdrifts and wolves at the far end of a gorge, where half a dozen mental patients live a degraded life until a disorientated UN plane deluges them with aid parcels. The Balkans are all the same

The Colonel Bird Gate. W11

shrewdly points out. "They were told to drop aid on the Balkans, so that's what they've

Combat uniforms and skyblue berets are included in the aid. and these transform the most traumatised patient (Damian Myerscough) into a UN colonel, who in turn transforms the others into a disciplined and purposeful group. though all of them continue to be mad. Eventually the group applies to join Nato as an independent force, attaching their application to the leg of a migrating bird and scanning the

winter skies for an answer. With Nato seen as an all-providing god, what we have here is plainly an allegary for Eastern Europe's longing to join the banquet. Boytchev is not



Officer material: Damian Myerscough dons UN uniform

concerned to examine the nature of madness - the Gate's current season is called The Idiots — except insofar as a wish to join the West might be a disturbing symptom. So the disor-ganised mad behaviour at the start is something of a trial to

Once the madness is canalised into Lilliputian ambition. Rupert Goold's direction creates an impressive coherence. The bird-catching scenes are

exciting, with the characters huddling together and leaning back in unison when the flocks pass above them. Adam Cork's fast, jangling music also gives a fine sense of adrenalin pounding through the 535 tem, and though the charac ters are seldom more than two-dunensional, the perform ances are vigorous, while the closing scene, in Strasbourg's cathedral square, packs a hearty satiric punch



المكذآ من الاصل

n the unlikely event of a mobile phone company offering me a "one to one" with a late lamented idol, ! think I would call Lionel Bart. Unambitious, I know, compared to Mr Chris Evans's desire for transcendental discourse with John Lennon (what a meeting of minds that would be), but I have my reasons. In my mercifully brief career as a jobbing piants! I found myself almost permanently accompanying school productions of Bart's masterpiece, Oliver!. As a result I can still perform almost the entire score from memory. You don't get that from Alfred Brendel.

Anyway, during one of those interminable school shows — with the fragrance of cabbage wafting alluringly over the deputy headmistress's improbable impersonation of a Victorian tart - I leant over to the flautist (a grizzled veteran of those £20-per-week pit bands) and said: "At least Lionel Bart is making a packet out of this." Whereupon he fixed me with a look as forform as his trills. "Poor bugger doesn't make a penny out of Oliv-

المحال ا

er!" he hissed. "But then, he didn't write a note of it."

This Delphic whisper, scarcely audible under the cries of "Fagin, you avaricious old skeleton!" coming from the overexcited gym master chewing the scenery, intrigued me. I found out that the flautist spoke nothing less than the literal ruth. Barr had indeed naively sold the priceless rights to his magnum opus for just £15,000 - after being ruined by booze, LSD, the ghastly flop of Twang!, a pilfering platoon of gay pick-ups, and a short-lived but exceedingly tolerable stab at a

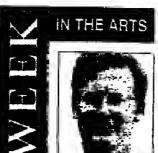
lifestyle that made the Aga Khan look dowdy. Well, that's showbiz. And he really didn't write a note of Oliver!. He couldn't write music at all. He composed by humming natty tunes to fit his snappy lyrics. The son of a Jewish tailor, he was the closest thing to Irving Berlin that Britain ever produced. But the

tedious matter of supplying notation, harmony and orchestration

he happily left to postdoctoral grad-uates grateful for pittances.

These snippets of Bart-lore fasci-nated me. How did he rise from East End obscurity to massive esteem, launching Cliff Richard and Tommy Steele with his whistlesome ditties, conceiving the most enduring British musical between The Mikado and Cats, dating Judy Garland, schmoozing with Princess Margaret? And why did he then fall so fast and so far?

Much later I met Bart. By then he was living over a shop in Acton. His finances were broken, but not his Cockney-lad optimism. He was, as they say in the East End, forever blowing bubbles. He had "200 new songs stashed away", he had musicals practically ready for the West End on subjects ranging from Golda Meir to Quasimodo. I



RICHARD MORRISON

was consumed with embarrassment in the face of what I pompously assumed to be rank self-delusion, and never wrote up the interview. If Bart wondered why not, he never phoned to ask. And last Salurday he died of cancer.

So now I must enter the realms

the footlights in the theatre of mortality. What would I ask Bart if he were soll here? The traits that first fascinated me about him no longer seem so peculiar. After all, pop music is full of people who can't notate their own tunes. And Bart wasn't the first showbiz celebrity to take the Hogarthian road from rags to riches to ruin, nor the last. The very bravado that makes for a successful theatre creature often leads inexorably towards nemesis.

No, what I would like to know, but now never will, is whether the theory I evolved about Oliver! while sitting through all those school shows has any basis in fact. It is that the musical has little to do with Oliver Twist as Dickens wrote it, and everything to do with the East End of Barr's heyday - a weirdly amoral place of seedy glamour in which the Krays were

of hypothetical one-to-ones across romanticised as modern-day Dick Turpins, and thrill-seeking showbiz swingers tripped the light fantasoc down the Mile End Road 10 party with gangland barons.

> y contention is that Bart pulled off an insouciant piece of literary subversion. After all, Dickens intended Twist to be a brutally moralistic tale of real life on the "cold, wet, shelterless, midnight streets" of 1830s London. He wanted to show criminals "in all their deformity". His outrage leaps from every page, even today. He consigned Fagin to the most terrifying death-cell scene in literature. His Sikes is a murderous psychopath who bludgeons his prostitute lover to death. His Beadle is a grotesque sadist.
>
> Most of this Bart dumped. tn-

stead he recast Dickens in an East End populated by cheeky urchins,

loveable rogues and tarts with hearts - just as Frank Loesser had immortalised the equally unlikely honourable hoodlums" of Damon Runyan's New York ten years earlier in Guys and Dolls.

Bart lived to recognise the irony of what he had done by sanitising Dickens. In 1994, shortly before Cameron Mackintosh triumphantly revived Oliver! at the Palladium (and, to his eternal credit, voluntarily paid Bart the royalties that the composer had signed away 25 years earlier). Bart gave an almost apologetic interview. "In 1960," he claimed, "homeless people in the streets were fiction, straight out of Dickens. Now they are real again."

He certainly wasn't the century's sharpest social commentator, nor its most profound tunesmith. But he did create something that will live as long as people have voices to sing. And I know that I will possess to my dying day the peculiarly useless ability to play the score of Otiver! from memory. How Bart might have laughed at that, had I plucked up the nerve to tell him.



Kyle Eastwood leading his quintet at Pizza Express: it was the biopic of Charlie Parker directed by his father that lured him away from movies into jazz

Bird who flew Clint's nest

aving grown up in a house full of his father Clint's jazz records, Kyle Eastwood might reasonably have been expected to have developed an interest in the music. But it wasn't until his celebrated parent made Bird - a film biography of Charlie Parker that Kyle, impressed like many before him by the dramatic life of the great alto virtuoso, decided to make his living playing jazz, instead of follow-ing his father into film.

Listeners to Kyle East-wood's debut alburn, From There to Here, with its stellar cast ranging from Joni Mitchell and Julia Fordham to jazz luminaries Mark Isham and Peter Erskine - not to men-tion arranger Vince Mendoza - might be forgiven for reserving judgment concerning the strictly jazz-based credentials of Eastwood fils. Certainly, anyone who heard the music alone - which ranges from material by Marvin Gaye and Tom Waits to originals by Eastwood's then pianist Matt McGuire, much of it performed by a big band - would never pick out the bassist as the leader, competent as his contributions are throughout.

Kyle Eastwood Pizza Express, W1

The band under Eastwood's name currently touring Europe, however, is another matter. The music played by tenor player Eric Alexander, trumpeter Jim Rotondi, pianist Jon Regen and drummer Yoron Israel alongside Eastwood is homogeneous (a pretty straightforward take on the hard bop forever associated with Blue Note recordings of the 1950s and 1960s) and unadorned by soulful guest vocals. Even their versions of the McGuire compositions featured on the album sounded altogether snappier than their recorded manifestations, and their second-set nod to Thelonious Monk - a lively visit to We See - nailed their colours firmly to the mast.

Beginning with two Mc-Guire tunes, Watch, Watch and Enter Evening, the quintet clearly looked to Rotondi and Alexander, who have been playing and recording together since the early 1990s, to

than being propelled - as bass-led bands such as Dave Holland's are - by Eastwood. The leader did prove, though, in taking the night's first solo, that he can plot a surefooted course through a chord se-quence, and that he has a pleasingly full-bodied, earnest sound that will benefit greatly from the increased technical assurance inevitably resulting from his current live exposure in such sympathetic company. The highlights of the

evening's music were to be found mainly in passages of interplay between the deliciously oght drumming of Israel and the sly, discursive piano of Regen, but when Alexander built up a head of steam - as he did in the second set's open-er, an Eastwood/McGuire composioon otled Da Da Ba Ba Nu Nu — he demonstrated not only the big sound associated with Chicago tenors, but also a nimbleness that con-trasted tellingly with Rotondi's more forthright trumpet contributions. If Eastwood's name attracts attention it is heariening that the likes of Alexander and Rotondi should benefit.

CHRIS PARKER

Cause and effect

pirited music-making in support of a good cause made this concert special. But then not all charity galas secure the services of Vladimir Ashkenazy, who was conducting in aid of the Everyman - Action Against Male Cancer appeal, and not all such events are the result of a happy end: this was the brainchild of the double-bass player Tom Croxon, here with his Philharmonia Orchestra colleagues celebrating a victory

over testicular cancer. Optimism rules at least the heginning of Candide, and Bernstein's overture got the concert off to a cracking start.

> Phliharmonia/ Ashkenazy Festival Hall

Ashkenazy shaped a crisp account, full of swagger, and the winds and percussion provided a brittleness that contrasted very effectively with the warmth of the strings.

Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F is another New York composer's portrail of home. The work pulses with hig-city ener-🛂 🛊 gy, and here it received a bighearted performance. Ashkenazy was alert and communicative, more than simply an accompanist m the ongoing dialogue between piano and orchestra. Few pianists have more feeling for the idiom than Peter Jablonski, who brought just the right blend of cheekiness and pathos to his part. for Mark David's laid-back, bluesy trumpet solos, and the finale was appropriately

Similarly, Ashkenazy emphasised the lyrical beauty of Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherarich in instrumental detail. and the woodwind solos were outstandingly played. The first movement had broad sweep. and the third poetic languor: real excitement was saved for the close, driven vigorously but never pushed 100 hard.

JOHN ALLISON

Young, gifted and inadequately funded

ith The Lion, the Witch and the Wardthe National Youth Orchestra. to the right, there wasn't a flapjack to be had at the Barbican coffee points on Wednesday. This was a seriously underage night; with the difference being that, in the Barbican Hall, the voracious flapjack guzziers turned out to be the ones on stage.

One hundred and fifty-two of them, no less. A year ago, they were corporately 50 years old: on Wednesday night the youngest were a pair of 14-year-old twins from Malvern, and the eldest a 19-yearold cellist from Edinburgh. It could have been any one of London's finest orchestras on a really good night. On the basis that the young do today what the hoary old professionals do tomorrow, the NYO unwittingly provided a splendid curtain-raiser to the Barbican's forthcoming festival, St Petersburg: Romance and Revolution in a programme of three composers associated

CONCERTS

MYO/Otaka Barbican

First came Liadov, protégé

of Mussorgsky and, by all ac-counts, a lazy man. He knew the things he hked, though, and his own little tableau The Enchanted Lake, intended for an opera he never got round to, was one of them. It was a brave way to start a concert, with the barely corporeal tremolandos of the strings and the veiled breathing of the wood-wind inevitably having to hold their own above the clatter of programmes being noisily consulted and dropped (by the adults). The players' concentration was intense, their focus absolute.

Tadaaki Otaka, conducting. encouraged them to flex their muscle in Rachmaninov's Symphony No 3, written in exile from the St Petersburg of his student days, and surging

membered homeland. Otaka milked the ardent responses of these young players, from the first bright flare of an up-beat, to the plangent Slavic song of the woodwind choir. and oo to the great final Dies lrae to which the entire symphony's language and expression seem to lead - at least in a performance as tautly paced as this one.

The tour de force of another remarkable NYO evening was Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. In Ravel's high-gloss orchestration the work becomes a veritable concerto for orchestra, and Otaka ensured that there was time and space enough to reveal the intensive work done during the orchestra's Easter course by Peter Stark who prepared the programme, and by all the section coaches. The result was a thrillingly virtuoso performance by an orchestra which receives less than 2 per cent of its annual income from the State. Something wrong, surely?

HILARY FINCH

Flawed Finnish myth

T f the Kullervo Symphony were by anyone other than Sibelius it would probably never be heard at all. It's long, it's expensive to perform and it's badly written. The regular anticipations of stylistic features associated with the mature composer and the rather less frequent inspiracions in narrative or characterisation do not compensate fur the generally undistinguished material of the work and its clumsy construction.

Even so, there was every reason to hope that Sakari Oramo, who is as ardent a champion of Sibelius as any other a zade. He drew a performance Finnish conductor, and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, which has become thoroughly familiar with Sibelius in the recent past, would make a persuasive case for Kullervo. In fact, after holding the structure precariously together through the four first movements, the conductor did succeed in getting the final secCBSO/Oramo Birmingham

oon, Kullervo's death, to fall into place as though it belongs there. There was some longterm sadsfaction in that. There was some emotional interest too in the solo performances of Lilli Paasikivi, who was particularly effective in lamenting the fate of the hero's unfortunate sister, and Heikki Kilpelainen, who was suitably sullen as Kullervo himself. The male voices of the CBSO Chorus, though not entirely at ease with their lines from the Kale-

the story along. One of the problems with the presentation of that early score in Symphony Hall on this occasion, however, was the decision to open the concert with a masterful work from the other end of Sibel-

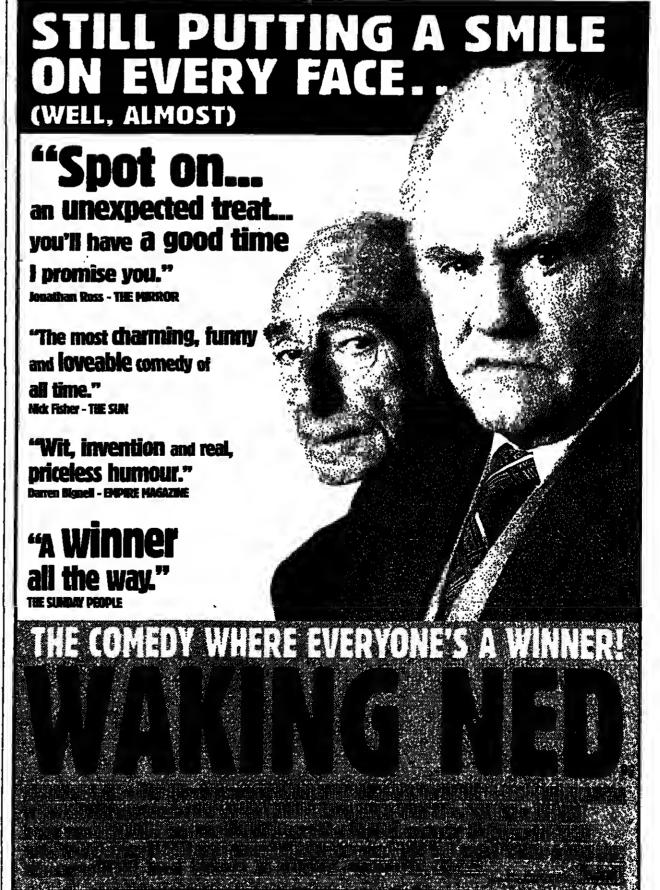
vala, were energetic in moving

same mythic background. though in a more generalised way. Tapiola is as economic as Kullervo is extravagant and, in less than a quarter of the time, four times as dramatic. Nothing is overstated and not one expressive gesture or nuance of colour in the orches-

tration is wasted.

It took a little time for Oramo and the CBSO to establish the atmosphere at the beginning of Tapiola but, once that was achieved, they set a standard in poetic inspiration that. for all the professional commitment deployed after the interval. they simply could not emulate in Kullervo. When the orchestration does not work, and when there is so much that is tediously overdrawn and embarrassingly overemphatic, there is a limit to what even the most devoted performers

can achieve. GERALD LARNER



AT CINEMAS EVERYWHERE NOW @

ARTS

The return of prog-rock

The prickly edge of prog RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

ESCAPE FROM PTERODACTYL ISLAND: Award-winning American musical based on the genre of early sol-II novels, with new rock'n'roll songs from Michael Jeffery. Pleasance Theatre (0171-609 1800). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

Opens tonight, 7.30pm.
ENDLESS PARADE: The senes of poet-war classical British music continues here. The highlight of an action-pecked weekend is the performance tomorrow (Festival Hall, 7.30pm) by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra under Yan Pascal Torteker of Benjamin Britishen's last opera Desthin Versce with Anthony Rote Johnson in the role of Aschenbach.

At the same time on Sunday, as part of the International Series, the Festival Hall plays host to Haydri's Creation, performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir conducted by Roger Nortrigton. South Benk (0171-960 4242). (§)

AN EQUAL MUSIC. The proc-winning author Vikram Seth reads extracts from his latest novel. A line-up of distinguished musicians headed by the piants Joanna MacGregor play selected pieces by Haydin, Mozari, Bach, Beethoven and Schubert, set in the context of the literary work. Wigmore Half (0171-935 2141). Torught, 7.30pm. (5)

ELSEWHERE

CHESTER: The Cheek By Jowl adaptation of Thackeray's Vanity Fair, directed now by Deborah Shaw with Celia White as Becky Sharp. Gateway (01244 340382). Previews from tonight, 8pm. (5)



Yan Pascal Tortelier conducts the BBC PO

recording of Paul Paray's Jeanné d'Arc Mass was nominated for a Grammy Award last year. Here the orchestra returns to the work in a concert which also includes Berfloz's Symphome Fartashque, James Paul conducts. Royal Concert Hall (0141-287 5511). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

LIVERPOOL: The Russian co Germedi Rodhdestversky makes his debut with the Royal Liverpool Philammonic Orchestra in a concert featuring Snostakovich's Symphony No B. The conductor shares the finelight with his wife, Viktoria Postnikova, who joins the orchestra as soldist in Mozan's Ninth Plano Concerto. Philharmonic Hall (01S1-709 3789).

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only Some seats available Seats at all prices

MAMMA MIAI: Musical based on the songs of Abba. Siobhan McCarthy and Lisa Stokke play mother and daughter on the eve of the girl's wedding. Phyllida Lloyd directs. Prince Edward (0171-447 5400).

THE GIN GAME: Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old tolk in a remement home whose card playing styles echo their sod lives. Firth Barbury directs a surprising Pulitzer Savoy (0171-836 8888). (5)

☐ THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE. Richard Oreyluss and Marsha Mason make their British stage debuts in Neil Simon's play about big city angst, Theetre Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800). (5)

■ GOOO C.P.Taylor's best play, pracing a liberal professor's gradual descert into working with the Nazis. Charles Dance heads a strong crist. Nitchael Grandage directs, Donimar (0171-369 1732)

☐ THE COLONEL BRID. Bulgarian author Hristo Boylchev's award-winning play about an asylum taken over by the funatics. Rupart Gould directs.

□ BLOOD KNOT: Barry Walfman and Gordon Case star in Athol Fu-gard's updated version of his cele-brated black and while brothers play. Riverside Studios (0181-297 1111). SACRED HEART: Mick Mehoney's ew one, where two second-genera-on Insh tade from NW3 meet again

after years estranged. Ambassadors (0171-565 5000). OROSS INDECENCY: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde: Michael Pen-migton plays Wilde, with Wildem Hoy-land and Cive Francis as coursel for and against, in Moises Keulman's play. loud 10171-494 50651. ☐ HAMILET: Paul Plays plays the prince in Laurence Boswell's production. With Donald Sumter as Claudius. See revow, page 34.
Young Vic (U171-926 6363). ⑤

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

A CIVIL ACTION (15): Meany countroom drama with John Travolta and Robert Duvall in spenking form as two sharks in a case about toric dumping. Steven Zailian directs. Playful romanic comedy about male bonding with Simon Callow splendidly miscasi as a heterosexual New Age Svengeti. Rose Troche directs

NO (15): Robert Lepage's supple,

NO (13): NODER Lepage Suppre, black comedy forms a psychedelic chem of coincidences between a Carredian acress and her bomb-marking boytriand. A reasing puzzle about politics and art. THE FACULTY (15): Fishy so-fi

THE FACULTY (19): I many aum chiller with high comedy quota from Kevin Wilkiamson. A faculty of school-teachers get taken over by alien soulds from outer space. Director Robert Rodinguez flogs the creeping paramola with seat-clusching wit. SLAM (15): Saul Williams puts in a sensational performance as a black rap poet caught up in the Washington prison system. A gritty documentary-style film by Marc Levin.

HIGH ART (18): Ally Sheedy and Radha Milchell spread lesbian glo Hadria Mitchell spread lesbian gloon and doom in an upmarket photographic magazine. Drugit, decadence, and Fasebinder fail to illuminate Lisa Cholodenko's constipated melodrama ORGAZMO (18): Tube station ele-

CURRENT

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG): Flashes of dry humour fluminate Zeffinelli's tribute to the English spiraters who rased him in Florence before Mussolini jalled them. With Maggle Smith, Joan Plowright, and Judi Dench.

PLUNKETT & MACLEANE (15): Jakes Scott's 18th-century swashbuckler is mildly amusing if you like being mugged. With Robert Carlyle and Jorny Lee Miller.

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12): An ingenious comedy about a man (Brendan Fraser) released alter 35 years in a nuclear bunker. Bill Kelly

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (12): Charles Laughton's only steb at directing is a Tom Sawyer versus Sweeney Todd nightmare, Robert Mitchum's crooked preacher is unto gettable. A classic 1955 fear move.



Stiffening their spines: Porcupine Tree - "the word 'progressive' is actually used to mean 'regressive'"

could teach us a thing or two about musical laissez-faire. As Porcupine Tree prepared to play a second night for an attentive and socially diverse au-dience at the 2,000-capacity

cruits including former Japan keyboard player Richard Barbieri. Along the way, they have sold 100,000 albums, while people back home sim-Palacisalfa in Rome recently, Wilson said: "Somehow we've ply ignored them. The release of their fifth album, Stupid Dream, is being marked with a set of British dates, but they become labelled a progressive rock band, but you see the audience tonight, they're not peoare bookended by much bigple who listen to progressive ger shows in such homesfrom-home as Rome, Athens rock. They're just people who like good songs and experiand Warsaw. Wilson believes that our European partners mental production."

Progressive rock,

despised at

home, is coining

it all over

Europe. Paul

Sexton reports

ing to win the majority over to the principles of PR. Not pro-

portional representation, but

that great misunderstood beast called progressive rock.

a compliment in a dreamy age

of Roger Dean doodles and ELP posiers on 10,000 bedsit

walls, has now become so peio-

rative that when Mansun's sec-.

ond album Six turned out to be ditty-free, their detractors gleefully hissed "prog-rock" at them. It was the verbal equiva-

lent of chucking rotting vegeta-bles during their guitar solos.

But beyond the cynical gaze of the fashion constabulary.

Porcupine Tree have spent al-

most the entire decade becoming a secret British success sto-

ry in European countries

where you can utter the dreaded phrase without fear of de-

portation. Almost unknown at

home, the quartet regularly play sell-out tours of Europe to

four-figure-capacity venues. nurturing a fan base that many of their countrymen

Created as a bedroom exper-

iment by chief composer and

vocalist Steven Wilson as a

teenager in the late 1980s, Por-

cupine Tree gradually evolved

into a real live band, with re-

would love to hack into.

A phrase that was coined as

ike Liberal Demo-crats on the margins

of British music, Por-

cupine Tree are fight-

The key to such European harmony lies simply in a little publicity. A Rome station, Ra-dio Rock, got hold of an earlier Porcupine Tree album and has played them into the ground ever since. "We'd only been playing as a band for six months." Wilson recalls, "and we got booked to play a show in Rome. At the time, we were playing gigs in London to 100 people. We turned up in Italy, sold out this 1,200-seater."

No such luck back home. where most album rock is caught in mainstream radio's exclusion zone, "Generally speaking, in Britain they don't play your stuff unless it's a single. Virgin is supposedly a rock station, but it just seems to be Losing My Religion and Alanis Morissette every five

minutes," Wilson says. It is a problem shared by another uncelebrated British rock export, Delirious?. who have had even bigger sales

abroad and recently achieved their third British Top 20 single. See the Star, but continue to be cold-shouldered here by television and radio. "In the end," says Wilson,

"it's music by people who are not afraid to play their instru-ments. I think our new album has as much in common with Radiohead as with Pink Floyd, but once you're labelled, you

are labelled." Southampton University (24); and And for those obliged to deal the Bloomsbury in London on with it, the prog-rock imprima-

door of a medieval plague house, "It has become a paradox," says Wilson. "To use the word 'progressive' actually means 'regressive'. If you look at the dictionary definition moving forward, doing something new, whatever it says -

as welcoming as a cross on the

I think we're all of those things, but unfortunately 1 know that 99 per cent of the times that the word is used, it's meant in the sense of 'sounds like Genesis, sounds like Marillion'." Stupid Dream may occa-

sionally summon the spirit of Meddle, may even be charged with the occasional Nursery Cryme, but is in essence an evocative sonic sun shower, largely free of the tendency towards portentous twaddle of its supposed forebears. Obliged to operate as a secret society, experimental rock tends to appeal to a certain

stereotype, as Wilson admits.

The people we get through to in England tend to be the more obsessive males. We come here to Rome and we get teenage girls. It's a different

f only radio program-mers bothered to open the box, they would find that Stupid Dream contains some enjoyable finger-food as part of the full menu. such as the elegantly harmonised Stranger by the Minute and Piano Lessons. Therein lies the fun, says Barbieri.

"If you can put experimentation into a pop song. like the Byrds or the Beach Boys did. for me that's the most interesting thing about music. It's what makes great albums." Wilson rounds off the point: The modern equivalent would be the first Portishead album. An extraordinary sound, but still great pop songs. If you can fuse the two, that's a timeless record."

 Stupid Dream is available on K-Scope Records/ Snapper Music. Porcupine Tree play the Foundry, Birmingham. tonight: Pavilion. Brighton, tomorrow; Boardwalk, Sheffield (16): Cottier, Glasgow

Mussolini with balls

uggling carries its own cyanide pill - an art form in which the highest state is to make some thing insanely difficult look absolutely mechanical. The cynical may say that this is why comedy is essential to juggling - it reminds the audience that you may very possibly mess up. and isn't it exciting that you do not? Scan Gandini is regarded by many as the finest juggler in the coun-

try. His winning way with seven balls is discussed in hushed tones by students of the circus, his revolutionary integration of juggling and contemporary dance is nodded over sagely by critics of the flexed instep, his ensemble performances are regarded as something of an annual highlight by those in the know. Remembering Rastelli, the new work from the Gandini Juggling Project at the Circus Space, Hoxton, looks at the life of this century's greatest juggler, and parallels his life with that of Benito Mussolini. In fact it is a virtuoso display of ensemble and solo juggling conducted for the most part in an atmosphere of extreme minimalism.

There are occasional sallies into the world of entertainment, including a sprinkling of vaudeville pastiche. Members of the cast attempt to outdo each other with feats of skill and co-ordination, the high point of which finds one man balancing a club on his chin, a football on his ankle, another club on one finger, on the wrist of which hand a hoop is kept spinning while he juggles with the other hand. There are also episodes of exCIRCUS

quisite grace in which the company dances arm-in-arm while maintaining a flow of balls with their spare hands. But for all the skill, much of this highly choreographed work is so perfect that it becomes somewhat too mesmerising for the non-aficionado.

The Great Basofal, alias Bob Pearce, is a saggy little man in a string vest and long grubby pants. His childlike mixture of confusion and curiosity is hardly surprising given that he exists in a world where ballpoint pens and clipboards fall from the sky, and where a spacecraft can

be conjured from a large linoleum square and a folded sheet

His Hoxton show takes the form of a Heath Robinsonesque journey, complete with space travel and giant birds. Since Basofal spends much of his time stranded, either in the interstellar doldrums or shipwrecked by storm, it would be fair to see his journey in the larger sense, a vision of the soul's progress through a series of lives in which the mortal body is left behind and existence is guided by a clipboard-providing life form. What, then, is life like for the Great Basofal?

Having signed his official documents, Basofal sets out on a journey, tries to fry eggs, brings up a baby

bird, throws bread around, encounters a space storm, faces up to his own mortality, grows old and climbs a ladder. It is not a particularly revolutionary view of existence, but then Basofal is not a revolutionary clown.

lent little man in ill-fitting trousers to

It is only when he gets a co-star, in the form of a papier-mache skull, that things start to take off, and the skit in which the pair fight over the ownership of a bowler hat is probably the

HETTIE JUDAH

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wes 7.30 Mats Set 2.30

Perhaps it is churlish to expect a si-

provide transcendental insights into the nature of existence, but Basofal does seem to be more of a philosophical clown than a comic one, and at the very least should be able to persuade his audience to see the world as he does for a few minutes.

most successful of the whole show.

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GLASGOW: The spers on 5: shows as The Real Monty, above, have earned David Elstein the label of tack merchant

Too tacky for words

nel 5 boss, fumed when he saw a draft of last week's annual performance review by the Independent Television Commission (ITC) and suggested a vital change in vocabulary. The word "tackiness", used by the ITC to describe his channel's late-night erotic drama and sex documentaries - The Real Monty, Sex and Shopping and so on — seemed to him . . . well, a bit tacky. But the ITC stuck with the T-word. calculating that it would

ensure lip-smacking coverage. So it did, inspiring the Daily Mail to name Elstein its new "Pornographer in Chief", a title that has lain vacant since Michael Grade left Channel 4 two years ago. Elstein makes the point that the Mail is hosdle to Channel 5 because Lord Hollick's United News and Media, one of the channel's principal shareholders, owns the rival Express.

Channel 4 always said the Mail's anti-Grade campaign boosted ratings — an effect now evident at 5, where Dawn

grammes, tells me it is getting calls asking: "We've heard about this tacky stuff - can you tell us where to find it?"

■ ONE reason why the ITC refused to soften its judgment on Elstein was that 5's forays into filth had already been sav-

DAVID ELSTEIN, the Chan- Airey. director of pro- chant cannot help Elstein's meets the deadline, all will be already slim chance of succeeding Sir John Birt as Director-General of the BBC, however strenuously he points out that late-night naughtiness was part of the Channel's original licence application. And who wrote the application? Step forward Greg Dyke, Channel 5



aged by the Broadcasting Standards Commission (BSC), the busybody watchdog left over from the Thatcher years. whose meddling the ITC has long resented. By being as tough on porn as the rival quango, the ITC hopes to per-suade Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, that the BSC does nothing it can't do better. Being branded a tack merchairman and current frontrunner for the BBC job. But then who said life was fair?

■ AS HE watches tomorrow's Grand National, Greg Dyke may reflect that the horse that leads early on is not often first past the post. A foreign-trained outsider whose name crops up in the betting for Director-General is Howard Stringer, president of the Sony Corporation and a former president of CBS, one of the US

national TV networks. Although he has never worked in Britain, 56-year-old Stringer comes from Wales and tells friends he would quite like to go back. Mind you, if Nahthen Lad wins tomorrow for Jenny Pitman in her last National, she could become D-G on a wave of nacional sentiment.

■ JOURNALISTS are congenitally unable to keep secrets. which is why the shaming shenanigans that happen in every national newspaper are regularly exposed in Private Eye and elsewhere. So it is ambitious of Penguin to commission an anthology of insights into the trade and call it

Secrets of the Press. Edited by Stephen Glover, first editor of the Independent on Sunday, there will be chap-ters on killer interviews, gossip columns, getting fired, press pubs and much else. Contributors include Anthony Howard, Lynn Barber, Richard Ingrams, Lynne Truss and Paul Foot. "Some of it's knockabout stuff," says Glover, "but there are some more

revealed in October.

■ THIS week's loss of 30 jobs at the BBC's Pebble Mill headquarters in Birmingham, coming on top of its 24 radio redundancies in Manchester last week, has chilled the heart of the corporadon's staff in the English regions.

Many believe they are vicoms of the strategy to pump. extra resources into Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland in the name of devolution. One small comfort: total closure of Pebble Mill seems unlikely. if only because Ranjit Sondhi, ... the BBC Governor responsible for the English regions, has lived in Birmingham for 30 years and can be expected to defend his patch.

■ THE unseemly set-to at last menth's Nadonal Press Awards, where emotional tabloid editors complained that too many prizes went to the broadsheets, is unlikely to be repeated when the first Hugh Cudlipp Award is presented at the end of the year. For one thing the new award, initiated. by the British Journalism Review, is restricted to tabloids. For another the sponsor, BT, has committed a mere £2,000. which rules out a lavish knees-up with a limitless supply of inflammatory substances.

Finally the prestigious judging panel - including three veteran former editors and the Mail's Keith Waterhouse and Ann Leslie - is too grand and sober for fisticuffs.

■ THE Kosovo crisis has brought a welcome increase in viewers for BBC TV's muchderided 24-hour news channel. About half a million extra viewers are tuning in, taking the audience to around five million a week. Of these, more than three million are night owls who watch on their nor-mal TV sets after BBCI has closed down.

Most of the additional viewers, though, catch News 24 on cable or digital, seeking a crisis update when there is no bulletin on the main channels. "At least it gives the lie to the old joke that we are only watched by three people," says a spokeswoman.

serious pieces." If everyone • Maggie Brown is away

ITV viewing figures slump

A MONTH after shifting News at Ten to strengthen its peak schedule. ITV's share of viewing has fallen to its lowest this year, reports Broadcast. The network won less than 30 per cent of the total audience for the week ended April 4. compared with 36.3 per cent for the week ended March 14, when the new schedule was introduced and the quiz show Who Wants to be a Millionaire? boosted ratings. Peakome share in the week ending April 4 was 34.7 per cent, well below the target of 39 per cent. The network has yet to find a programme to screen at 10pm that can regularly draw as many viewers as News at Ten.

■ IN A REMARKABLE about-turn, Bass Brewers is changing the image of Caf-frey's ale and concealing its a bi-monthly magazine. Irish idenoty.

Marketing Week reports that it is to be repositioned as premium beer pitched at drinkers of up-

market lagers such as Stella Artois and Beck's. The brand's new ad agency. Roose & Partners, has devised a campaign without a whiff of the old Irish nostalgia. Bass's marketing director. Mark Hunter, says: "The danger was that Caffrey's could become a brand leader in a one-brand Irish ale category."

■ A TELEVISED version of The Economist, the weekly current-affairs magazine, is to be made by the independent producer Mentorn International. says Broadcast. With the working title The News Tomorrow, the programme will include predictions and analyses of national and international news.' It will be offered to broadcasters in Britain and abroad.

■ LOSS-MAKING cable channel Live TV is laying off nearly 30 per cent of its journalists in Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh in a move away from local news reporting, says Press Gazette.

The managing director Mark Cullen explained that research showed entertainment, sport and global events to be "more viewer-friendly" than local hard news. Two of the three daily half-hour bulletins will be dropped, and staff at the three newsdesks cut from 20 to 14. Last year the channel, owned by Mirror Group, lost £9 million.

■ HEALTH and fitness cononue to be growth areas in magazine publishing. Marketing Week reports that Mollin Publishing, after launching the British edidon of Shape this week, is planning to bring to Britain another American title, Jump, a teenage magazine with a fitness angle. Meanwhile Holland & Barrett, the health-food chain, is to launch

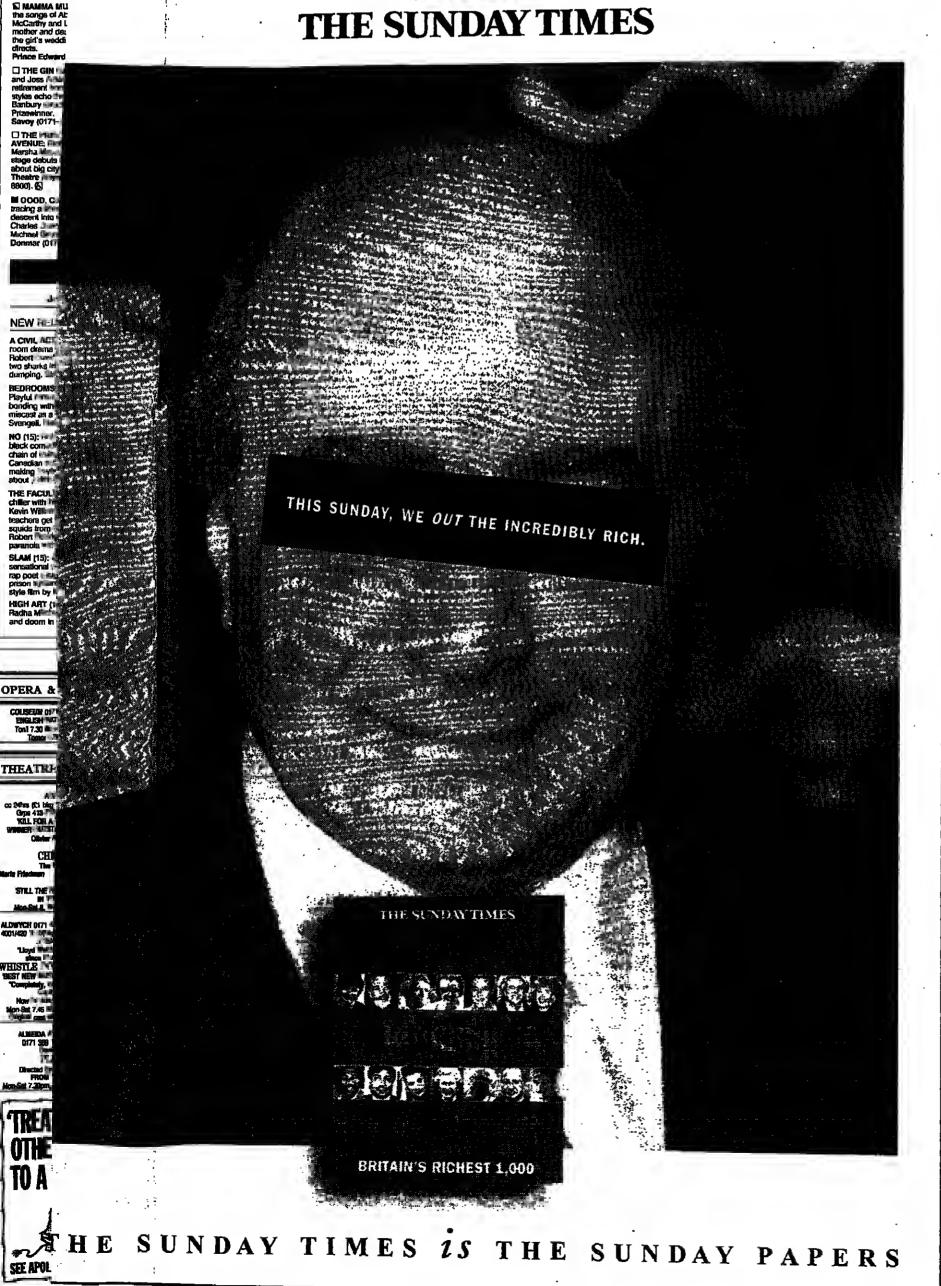
Healthy.

C H A N GING FACES: Australian model Mimi

be the new face of Foster's Formula One sponsorship; US coffee chain Starbucks appoints Helen Benedict of Colgate Palmolive 10 spearhead drive into Europe (Marketing Week). James Pool to be relationship director at Delaney Fetcher Bozell: John Dean becomes creaove director at Partners BDDH; Chris Dada, award-winning director of commercials, joins Academy (Campaign). Jon Molyneux, UK head of Apple Computer, to be managing director of online information service Scoot (Marketing).

■ GETTING THE BUSI-NESS: Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO wins account for Gillette Right Guard and Natrel Plus deodorants: Davies Little Cowley Fiddes to launch European sales drive for Mills & Boon books (Campaign). Computer firm Acer appoints Leo Burnett to run £30 million global branding campaign (Marketing Week).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN



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POP ALBUMS

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The state of the s

Catatonia grow up

Celtic impro



Making a cynical but grimly entertaining pitch straight at the pre-teens: Marshall Mathers from Detroit, aka Eminem

Nasty, brutis he and all too cate

EMINEM The Slim Shady LP (Aftermath Ent/ Interscope 490 287 EI5.99)
IN AMERICA, where it has already sold a million copies. The Slim Shady LP has prompted howls of moral indignation, not just from the usual coalition of concerned parents and ambitious politicians, but from the heart of the liberal music establishment itself. In a strongly worded article, the editor of Billboard has decried the violently misogynous imagery of Eminem's lyrics and solemnly urged his readers not to purchase the alburn by the 24-year-old rap star otherwise known as Mar-

shall Mathers, from Detroit. The Slim Shady LP is certainly extreme. Guilty Conscience, in which Eminem plays the roles of an armed robber, a rapist and a double murderer with mischievous and explicit gusto, is typical. In '97 Bonnie & Clyde an even darker narrative unfolds as the song's murderous central character whispers sweet nothmes to his infant daughter while disposing of the dead body of her (pregnant) mother in a lake: "There goes Mama. splashing in the water/No more fighting with Dad, no more restraining order/No more step-Dada, no more new brother/Blow a kiss-a-bye-

bye, tell Mama you love her." But the celebration of human depravity in the popular arts is nothing new. Indeed, in cinema, theatre, television drama and literature the line between humour and horror has become hopelessly blurred and the tenderly observed depiction of grotesquely anti-social behaviour is now a staple theme. So why all the fuss when similarly outre subjectmatter finds its way into popular music?

In the case of Eminem the answer is twofold. First, his music is so obviously and cynically pitched at children. With its classroom imagery and kids' humour, the (heavily edit**NEW POP ALBUMS:** Murder, rape,

robbery — Eminem certainly trawls the cesspit, David Sinclair says

ed) single, My Name Is, cur-rently at No 2 in the British chart, is cleverly designed to appeal to a pre-teen market: 'Hi kids, do you like violence? (Yeah!)/Wanna see me stick nine-inch nails through each one of my eyelids?" But the key to most of the

fuss is Eminem's skill as a communicator, which, coupled with his inspired sense of musical drama, makes listening to this album as compulsive and grimly entertaining as watching a Tarantino film. Like water, truly popular music seeps in everywhere, and al-though the attitude informing this album is ideologically indefensible, it is nevertheless pop of an exceptionally high order and thus all the more subversive. We may have heard such things before, but this time it is going to prove wellnigh impossible to ignore.

In the number If I Had, Eminem sets out his manifesto with a characteristically blunt turn of phrase: "If I had one wish/I'd ask for a big enough

ass for the whole world to kiss". Whatever the objections, the world may well end up having to do just that.

CATATONIA Equally Cursed And Blessed 🤄 Blanco Y Negro 398427094

AS THEY stand on the brink of success on a Robbie-esque scale, Catatonia have taken pains to ensure that this, their third album, does not come laden with too much baggage from the past. Only one song, a fast, minimalist, punk anthem called Storm the Palace; unequivocally recalls their in-die-rock origins, while the epic Dazed, Beautiful and Bruised provides a suitably brash

Otherwise, the album comprises a succession of songs such as Bulimic Beats, Nothing Hurts. She's a Millionaire and the current single, Dead from the Waist Down, in a more subdued, easy-listening vein. The best, by a long way; is Londinium, a number which provides a suitably bustling chorus while discreetly signalling the group's dislike of the capital: "London never sleeps, it just sucks/The life

While Cerys Matthews remains a wonderfully characterful singer, there are times, as on the gossamer-light pop

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1 (1)	Talk on Corners	Corrs (Atlantic)
2 (4)	Forgiven, Not Forgotton	Corrs (Atlantic)
3 (2)	Performance and Cocktalls	Stereophonics (V2)
4 (9)	Gold - Greatest Hits.	Abba (Polydor)
5 (7)	Baby One More Time.	Britney Spears (Inve)
6 (6)	Step One	Steps (Inve)
7 (5)	I've Been Expecting You	-Robbie Williams (Chrysatis)
a (12)	Gran Turismo	Cardigans (Stockholm)
9 (10)	You've Come a Long Way, Baby	Fathov Slim (Skint)

Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

The folk who live on the border

THE KELTZ
The Seas Are Deep
(Lochshore CDLDL 1279) THE KELTZ are basically a ic music. As with Lammas, anfolk trio who improvise, using reels, jigs and ballads as bases for extended explorations of the rhythmic and harmonic possibilities in traditional Celt-

Alan

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Bizet - iorcador r zangwer (*). Handel - Hallelujah Churus, Icharkovsky z Swan i ske (*).

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and Operatic favourites

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Operatic Eavourites

NEW JAZZ ALBUMS

Paul Henderson's guitar and other band occupying the borthe various saxophones, whisder area between jazz and folk, the appeal of the Keitz's acoustles and flutes - not to mention bazouki and bodhran - of tic sound springs largely from Sean O'Rourke, all propelled the textural contrast between by the subtly vigorous percussion of Vijay Kangutkar. But,

unlike the longer-established band, the Keltz have a rock-influenced side to their music. Henderson plays guitar synth as well as delicate acousoc guitar, and the power and fluency of his solos on the instrument, as well as its light precision in accompanying roles, give an extra dimension to the trio's music. The Keltz Classical Bits may not appeal to diehard purists in either camp, but the less rigid aficionados of both jazz and folk should find a great

> TERENCE BLANCHARD Jazz in Film (Sony Classical SK 60671)

deal to enjoy in this neat, airy

BEGINNING with Alex North's theme for A Streetcar Named Desire and subsequently exploring scores rang-ing from Jerry Goldsmith's

Chinatown and Andre Previn's The Subterraneans to Duke Ellington's little-known Degas's Racing World, Ter-ence Blanchard has certainly consolidated his reputation as a poised but fiery trumpeter with this, his first album for Sony Classical. He also draws elegant performances from his sidemen: saxophonists Joe Henderson and Donald Harrison. trombonist Steve Turre,

and the late pianist Kenny

Out and out jazz fans, how-

Kirkland.

ever, may find Blanchard's arrangements, particularly his use of strings, a little polite: his sextet visit to Anatomy of a Murder, for instance, has just enough Mingusian robustness to invite distinctly unflattering comparisons with the late bassist's music. Sony. though, has promised "pure improvised jazz albums" as well as such "bridges between formally composed music and jazz" from Blanchard in the future, so the move may yet bear more robust fruit than this recording, polished and undenia-bly pleasant as it is.

CHRIS PARKER

COMPILATION ALBUMS

DISCO music — mindless, repetitive and soulless, claimed the criocs back in the 1970s. But with the release of a lavishly presented 80-track four-CD set, The Disco Box (Rhino 75595), you can argue that the critics got it wrong.
True, there were records

which do not deserve to be disinterred - Disco Tex and the Sex-O-Lettes should have been left to boogie in peace - but others still retain vitality: Chic, for instance, with Le Freak and Good Times, the foghorn-voiced Shirley and Company on Shame, Shame, Shame, Candi Staton's Young Hearts Run Free and Rose Royce's infectious Car Wash. People may throw their hands up in horror at hearing Village People's YMCA again, but I bet it still packs a dancefloor.

In the decade before disco. teenagers were still dancing, but they were doing the Madison, the Watusi, the Stroll and a dozen or so other dances featured on The Land of 1,000 Dances (Ace CDCHD702). a

compilation of dance-craze hits. Supposedly ephemeral hits such as the Isley Bothers' Twist and Shout, Bob and Earl's Harlem Shuffle or The Locomotion by Little Eva have all stood the test of the time. One reason may be the

skills of a group of songwriters

who worked in New York's Brill Building in the late 1950s and early 1960s. On Broadway (Westside WESD216), a double-CD, concentrates on three husband-and-wife songwriting teams who dominated the charts with a series of three-minute classics. Carole King and Gerry Goffin brought us the above-mentioned Locomotion as well as Up on the Roof and I'm into Something Good. Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann gave us On Broadway and We Gotta Get Out of This Place, while Jeff Barry and Ellie Greenwich supplied Da Doo Ron Ron and Be My Baby. most of which can be heard here.

JOHN CLARKE

Caitlin Moran is on holiday this week

SCOTLAND



THE BIG FIGH PER VIEW

This Saturday, the heavyweight contenders for the leadership of the Scottish Parliament go he in The Sunday Times — Channel Four debate, chaired by Jon Suow. This Sunday, The Sunday Times bring new NOP pall and asks who delivered Saturday's knockout blow?

THE SUNDAY TIMES is THE SUNDAY

was blackcoerced? telling us ambouiller Agani had now savs passes for egy would air-power Far less atthe more of how n the first tost daily told that campaign Milosevic mbouille e iold that avert a ner. Since gency derian crisis" bombing, simply to ected to be ss exodus thing to do Nhat about hds of Serthey being sed 100? vo Liberaansformed n that the assified as

> ation of denately de-1's military ility of the inform the .ppening in n danger of laded, if not

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future of

Clark has

nior lectur s at South Balkans war: as reporters describe their battle to get the news out, the media are criticised for toeing Nato's line



An image from the video passed to the BBC shows the body of an ethnic Albanian in the village of Velike Krusa, Kosovo. The man who filmed it hid in terror for days

Finally we had proof

ick. it's Tony. There's someone here who says he may have something from the other side." The other side. We had been in Kultes for a week and had been in Kukes for a week and had seen more than 200,000 women. children and elderly people fleeing from their homes into the mountainous north of Albania. No one knew what was happening in Kosevo. I had heard stories of murder. executions and rape. But nothing could be confirmed. Everyone need-

the state of the s

An hour after picking up the saiellite phone and hearing this, I was driving up the mountain, at every corner passing tractors pulling trailers packed with refugees. The bor-der post was an hour's drive from

George Alagiah and a respected lorcign news cameraman. Tony Fallshaw, had overheard a man saying that he had a video from Kosovo. They did not know what was on it. They had only the word of one man who had fled his home.

As always, the next deadline was approaching. George and Tony needed to get back to the room that was now our home to edit for the evening news. I told both of them to

A cheap tape smuggled out of Kosovo provided hard evidence to back the refugees' tales of Serb atrocities. The BBC's Nicholas Springate tells how he obtained it

man and that I would go and talk now in Kukes and the other half,

At the border post more than 2.000 people were sitting on the ground. In the middle of this scene was a raised hut, with Sara standing outside. She had fled from Pristina to Macedonia, where she ended up working with us. She told me that the man was confused and wanted to tell us what he had seen so the BBC could tell the world what had happened in his village.

In the hut we found Milaim Bellanica. A slim man with a pale face. he was staring past the barrier and down the dark road that led to Kosovo and the Serb border crossing. Could this man - who would have been just another face in the thousands of faces there, had he not been pointed out to me - actually have evidence of the atrocities we had alt heard about? Milaim was waiting for his brother, who had the tape. His family had been separated by the Serbs on the other side

of the border. Half of them were

including his brother, had still not arrived. He was worried. It was getting late and he knew what the Serbs could do.

He was from the village of Kru-

sa-E-Madhe. On March 25 Serb militia - some of whom he knew came to the village, Milaim's birthplace. In fear of what might happen, the men had walked to mee: the armed militia so that the women and children could flee.

hen they realised why they had come, the men tried to escape. More than 100 had been killed, he said. The word "executed" was repeated.

He had hidden in his basement and only came out after five days. Then he was still too afraid to pick up his home video camera. After another two days, he did.

He told me this story over and over again. He produced a list that he had written of 40 of the men

ince Vietnam, news management has

management has been a key preoccupation of governments at

war. But in today's informa-

tion-rich environment the flow of news is more difficult to con-

trol. Via the Internet, you can

reach both Yugoslav and Albanian reports on the crisis io Ko-

sovo, as well as American and

Yet politicians and Nato

spokesmen persistently serve

us bite-size News McNuggets.

and most British people still tely on their own media to tell

them what is happening. So

how successful have the Brit-

ish media been in providing an informative account of the

Nato's bombing campaign

started when the Rambouillet

negotiations broke down. Yet

there has been virtually no crit-

ical analysis of wby this hap-

pened. What were the objec-

tions of the Yugoslav Govern-

The Boston Herald wrote

that 'The deal they were told

to accept, or else, involved im-

mediate autonomy for Kosovo

and a three-year transition to-

ward unspecified goals, super-

vised by Nato troops." In Brit-

ainwe are told that the Serbs

rejected a reasonable "peace

agreement". The Rambouillet

accord is on the Net (www.tran-

snational.org). Take a look

and ask yourself if you can

think of any sovereign state

This week, in response to an

offer of negotiations from Bel-

grade, Nato escalated its

bombing while politicians stepped up the rhetoric.

George Robertson, the De-

fence Secretary, said that Yugo-

slav forces in Kosovo were

perpetrating the worst vio-

lence that some people have

Standard highlighted News-

On Wednesday the Evening

seen since medieval times".

that would accept its terms.

ment, for example?

Kosovo crisis?

European news sites.

ed me the tane. It was wrapped in a plastic bag — a small VHS-C, the kind of tape that people filmed at home in the early 1980s.

telling the truth, these would be the

first pictures from Kosovo since the

had flooded the border crossing

had gone. Hours had passed. Sara

was cold. Around us people were

burning the boxes that had held

their rations in order to keep warm.

Milaim's brother had not ap-

peared. I handed him a crumpled

card with my name and too many

telephone numbers on it, and asked

him to meet me at dawn at the café where the BBC had based itself. I

would be there and just wanted to know if he had the tape or not.

It was worth a try. That was what everyone said when I arrived

back that night. If it did exist, the

footage would be a world exclusive.

Every journalist and news organi-

sation was desperate for the first

It was not a wasted journey.

think we both smiled when we saw

each other that morning. He hand-

pictures from the other side.

By now the camera lights that

bombing began.

Four hours after being handed the rape, the BBC team in Kukes watched it on a monitor. At first it showed Milaim's family at home. pumping up a rubber dinghy. Then the pictures changed. We watched in silence. Seventeen bodies, All men. I noted that a number had single entry marks from the bullets. All had been shot at close range.

At 5pm on Easter Sunday the BBC broadcast the first evidence of mass murder in Kosovo. One man's act of extraordinary bravery had given us much more than a world exclusive. It gave some hope to the hundreds of thousands who had fled their homes that those who committed such acts will not escape

In Milaim's words: "I have done this so that my son and grandson will never forget what the Serbs have done to the Albanian people." The tape that was handed to me has now been given to the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

The author is a senior producer.

Life with the hard core

Only a few dogged war reporters remain in Belgrade's Hyatt Regency hotel, says Tom Walker

oming from the reception desk of an international hotel, it was a peculiar answer: "I'm not sure, sir, if I'm supposed to tell you whether we're nice to journalists or not," said the Belgrade Hyan Regency's

front manager.
But these are peculiar times in the Serbian capital, and as the focus of a global press corps that is widely held responsible here for the rain of Nato projectiles, the hotel's management is on a knife edge in its relations with the Serbian and Yugoslav Governments. In terms of media relations, the Hyatt, the finest hotel in what remains of Yugoslavia, did not get off to a good start during the airstrikes. The first night of Nato's phase one is remem-bered by the few journalists who managed to stay inside Yugosla-via as "the night of the long knives": 30 correspondents who went on to the roof of the hotel, under the impression that they could safely watch the bombardment from there, were arrested, and several were escorted to the border the next day, Most correspondents were released after five hours in the company of the New Belgrade constabulary, and the ground rules of reporting what CNN calls "Strike against Yugoslavia" had been laid down.

tugosiavia" had been laid down, Back in the relative safety of the Hyatt. plain-clothes police and security guards went round knocking on the doors of selected correspondents advising them that life outside Yugoslavia was a better option. A collective paranoia set in and the hack exodus was on. "There was this image of was on. "There was this image of the knocks at the door coming up, floor by floor," said a French tabloid journalist. "But the fact is that a lot of people abandoned ship without getting the knock. Many who left Yugoslavia were never directly asked to go." The Hyatt is now the province of the

hard-core war correspondents.

Up in the regency suite the tales of past derring-do grow more extravagant by the brandy glass as the BBC's John Simpson, CNN's Brent Sadler, ITN's Julian Mannion and Sky's Tim Marshall fight their corners with gusto. There are some quieter. more ephemeral influences, such as Time magazine's Massimo Calabresi, The Guardian's Maggie O'Kane, and engaging maver-icks such as the TV cameraman Nigel Thompson, The few Yugoslavs around tend not to last long since much of the media fare is unpalatable to them. On the night that Tony Blair came out with his glib comment about "bombing with compassion", it

was surprising that the wide-screen TV in the drawing room bar survived; many locals simply walked out. Correspondents added to the theatre by arguing over visas and fuel rationing, while Balkan smugglers passed in and out peddling their wares.

The hotel staff exacted some re-

venge on correspondents by holding rigorous air raid drills. On night two of the strikes journalists were dragged downstairs at least four times; the third time the sirens sounded, staff almost dragged reluctant reporters out of bed. Two floors beneath ground level, kitchen staff were told to put damp towels over their heads because a poisonous gas cloud was coming.

But the Hyatt's staff remain remarkably courteous, and are ai-



ways ready to give advice to the not-so-streetwise. They told me to wear sunglasses and a baseball hat the wrong way round if I went out because I looked too foreign," says a cameraman. "That was nice of them." All the while the deprivations of war nibble at the luxurious veneer; the Italian restaurant is closed, and the hot buffet at the Avala restaurant gets steadily more meagre. Bills must be settled in cash.

There are the bizarre touches to life, such as the piped music that still includes the theme from Top Gun. For correspondents Belgrade is a city in weird suspense, its bridges and ministries awaiting laser-guided Armageddon, while a war and a humanitarian catastrophe, declared out of bounds by the authorities, lie hundreds of miles to the south. To non-journalists it would seem a strange world indeed: in the mornings the only sound echoing down the corridors is that of the BBC World Service - "Music to divorce to," as one correspondent a long way from home put it.

On the road to nowhere

he Serbian border guard stared at our Briosh passports with contempt. You are killing our children with your bombs," he said as I waited with Dessa Trevisan, the veteran Times correspondent, to cross the border from Hungary into Yugo-slavia. My goal: to reach Belgrade to join Tom Walker, the

Times reporter there. We had been waiting more than an hour after being ordered to leave the minibus on which we had travelled from Budapest, watching as it left without us on its way to the Serbian capital.

Now we were alone in a room at the border post in Tompa, policed by combatlarigued men with guns and a plentiful supply of scorn. Dessa, a diminutive 74-year-old from Serbia, was furious after being denied access to the country in which she has lived most of her life falthough she has a British passport). She was trying to return as a pri-

vate citizen. I as a journalist. It transpired that our visas were not only worthless, they were a disadvantage. Two days after the Nato air strikes had begun, a coup of sorts had taken place in Belgrade. Now the names of the Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister, Vuk Draskovic, and the Information Minister, Milan Komnenic, who had authorised our visas, were mud. The military was in charge and had orders to keep us out.

So began a long, frustrating fourney to nowhere. For six daysDessa and I tramped up and down the Hungarian borwards to Budapest after being told on a daily basis to "come back tomorrow The tentacles of war spread

wide in their attempts to strangle the reporting of news.

Once we were allowed to travel to a cafe on the Serbian edge of no-man's land. The guard who had blamed us for being responsible for killing Serb children had undergone a character change. After discussing the war with Dessa who reported on the Hungarian uprising and the Prague Spring - he kissed her on both cheeks then invited all of us into a warm room and gave us whisky, slivovitz and beer.

Our optimism did not last. The shift changed, our new friend departed for his home on a pig farm, and we were ordered out into the cold once more. An hour later we were given back our passports and told to go back to Hungary.

This whole exercise was not a complete waste of time, however, for we gleaned much in-formation while travelling on the bus plying between the Yugoslav and Hungarian capiials. It enabled us to meet Serbs - travelling home from jobs abroad - who were offering to fight; and women, children and the elderly who were leaving Serbia to avoid the bombs. Many were suspicious or hostile, but changed their minds after discussing their hopes and lears. They all said they thought we should have been allowed in so that we could tell the world the truth.

EVE-ANN PRENTICE

The unasked questions

Philip Hammond says reporting of the war has been strong on rhetoric and short on genuine attempts to get at the truth



"Most of what passes for 'analysis' is actually a discussion of which strategy would work best for Nato"

week's report that last October Clinton turned a deaf ear to intelligence reports that Milosevic might agree to a Nato peacekeeping force in Kosovo. Clinton, battling the Lewinsky scandal, feared committing US troops would damage him too much politically. Yet in Britain, journalists prefer to follow the official line that Yugoslavia's unilateral ceasefire was a "cynical ploy" rather than engage in discussion of the issues involved in reaching a settle-

ment. Neither has there been

any real attempt to explain the background to the conflict. Instead, we are offered historical and religious pseudo-explanations. The Sun - worried, perhaps, that "white-van person" might not be immediately convinced of the necessity to "Clobba Slobba" and "Bomb. Bomb, Bomb" - provided a question-and-answer section on "the conflict that's 600 years old". Headlined "What is the war for?" the article asked: "Where is Kosovo?". "What are the different reli-

gious groups?" and "Why do they hate each other?". A feature in The Sunday Tel-

egraph presented the conflict as a latter-day Crusade by the Orthodox Church, while TV reporters describe it as a "medieval loot and pillage". Meanwhile, Charles Krauthammer. in The Washington Post. argues that: "The reason for the killing in Kosovo is not mindless ethnic hatred but quite rational power politics." Yet it seems that new Labour would prefer us to see it as an epic battle of Good v Evil, started by a 'serial ethnic cleanser".

Nor has war in Europe prompted any investigative journalism. The moderate ethnic Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova was said by Nato to be in hiding before he appeared on TV calling for a halt to the airstrikes. Perhaps British journalists are wary of accepting the Yugoslav version of events, but a French press agency interviewed him. Is there a story to be investigated there, or shall we just stick to the latest Nato press statement on whether Rugova was black-mailed, drugged or coerced? Similarly, after telling us that the Albanian Rambouille

negotiator Fehmi Agani had been executed. Nato now says his death is "unconfirmed". Most of what passes for "analysis" is actually a discussion of which strategy would work best for Nato: air-power or ground troups. Far less attention is given to the more fundamental issue of how Nato went to war in the first place and why its aims seem to change on an almost daily basis. First we were told that the Nato bombing campaign was designed to get Milosevic to sign up to the Rambouillet accord. Then we were told that the reason was to avert a humanitarian disaster. Since no international agency declared a "humanitarian crisis" before Nato started bombing. is their mission now simply to

clean up their own mess? Are we really expected to believe that the mass exodus from Kosovo has nothing to do with Nato bombs? What about the tens of thousands of Serbian refugees — are they being "ethnically" cleansed too? How have the Kosovo Liberation Army been transformed from an organisation that the US Government classified as 'terrorists" to the group on whom the peaceful future of

Kosovo depends? General Wesley Clark has announced his intention of degrading and ultimately destroying Yugoslavia's military capability. The ability of the British media to inform the public of what is happening in Yugoslavia is also in danger of being severely degraded, if not destroyed altogether.

• The author is a senior lecturer in media studies at South Bank University, London.

Pirate radio rules again

Deregulation was meant to increase listener choice and make pirates redundant, so why, asks Ben Osborne, are rebel radio stations now flourishing?

n MC blurts over the crash and splutter of the urban jungle rhythms: "Pe-nu-nut. pe-nu-nui. bah-bah-sexy." Turn the dial a millimetre and a rival station thrimps out its own varie-ty of drum in bass. The com-bined effect wipes BBC GLR off the radio map. A notch further and Fresh is pumping out a street soul selection, and next to that another pirate is jumping between drum 'n' bass and UK garage.

Pirate radio stations are riding the airwaves with all the bravado of 18th-century buccancers. Desoite the deregulation of the airwaves in 1990 and the granting of a clutch of licences to specialised stations such as Classic Jazz. Kiss and Xfm. pirate radio has continued to proliferate and at-tract a considerable audience. This shouldn't be happening. Deregulation should have increased diversity and listener choice and made pirate redundant.

At the heart of the debate about pirate radio — which targets a small but dedicated audience is the issue of listener choice, or lack of it. While the industry complains that pirates interfere with its listeners and marketplace, pirate broadcasters (euphemistically termed "radio enthusiasts") point to a business culture in commercial radio that forces stations to broadcast to the lowest common denominator. The pirates argue that deregulation has increased the number of stations owned by a few big companies that play the same material.

It's a point that legitimate broadcasters can appreciate. Things are so regimented and play-list driven in radio these days," says Gary Crowley, a veteran radio DJ. "Pirate radio is fans playing music which isn't being catered for anywhere else - otherwise they wouldn't bother climbing up towers to stick up aerials." Fraser Lewery, one-time radio

music at Xim, says: "There's a massive disenfranchised audience that needs something that only pirates provide. Regular radio is stagnating because peo-ple aren't willing to be brave: they just stick to what they know. Lintil the airwaves are liberal-ised, like they are in New Zealand, all we're going to get is a limited amount of commercial companies sticking to a tried and tested formula."

Recent attempts to break the in-dustry mould seem to support this point. Radio stations such as Xfm and Kiss in London and Crash in Liverpool all made bold attempts to extend listener choice. All have now been turned into more mainstream stations.

onvention has it that these stations had to change because they were failing to attract an audience but this argument is not borne out by listener figures. Kiss consistently reaches a 10 per cent market share but is now being revamped under the direction of its parent company. Emap. to make t more mainstream.

Specialist shows have been moved to "graveyard" slots, playlists have been introduced and some of the original DJs, including Cold Cut. Steve Jackson and Giles Peterson, have departed. By the time Capital bought 90.1 cent of the independent Xfm, the station (with 3.3 per cent of market share) was reaching more than half of its target listen-ership, which could explain why Capital was willing to pay £15 mil-lion for a large slice of the station.

The result of the watering-down of Xfm has been a loss of listeners. The most recent Rajar figures show Xfm's weekly audience dropping from a pre-take-over high of 329,000 to 244,000.

St John da Silva, a DJ for mid-Nineties pirate station Girls FM. says there is a clear connection bestream and the proliferation of pirate stations

There are more than 20 underground garage stations in Lon-don alone," he says. "There's a gap in the market because of what's happened to Kiss. A lot of the specialist shows are missing. That's where the pirates step in. The pirates wouldn't keep going if there wasn't a demand for it."

Both Xfm and Kiss started as pirate operations. "Because pir-ates are not commercial, they can be a lot braver, and new genres of music tend to get represented on pirate radio before commercial stations," says Lewery. "The people who are most knowledgeable about new genres of music are DJs on pirate stations. If you look at the staffing of pirate in the Eighties, the number who are

now on Radio I is phenomenal."
It costs £10,600 just to apply for a Greater London FM licence from the Radio Authority and a new station can expect to make at least three bids before succeeding. Once a licence has been obrained a Greater London FM station has to pay a further fee of be-tween £65,000 and £73,000 a year. A transmitter for a pirate station costs just £400. New Zealand, which deregulated its airwaves in the late Eight-

ies, opted for a more accessible arrangement by making it much cheaper and easier to get a licence. It now has four times as many stations as the UK, serving a population of just 25 million.

a population of Just 25 million.
The advent of digital radio in
the UK means that there is potential for more stations and greater
choice. "The Radio Authority
needs to look carefully at how
they are going to regulate digital," says Lewery.
"We don't need another 40 years

"We don't need another 40 versions of Emap-formatted radio. Part of the authority's role is to safeguard the future of broadcasiing. Handing over licences to big. successful radio companies is the wrong way to go about it."



DJ Jackson broadcasts from his bedroom in Spike Lee's Do The Right Thing.

TV boss seeks to lift ban The top executives of Med TV, the satellite channel broadcasting.

satellite channel broadcasting b millions of Kurds in Europe and

the Middle East. will today give undertakings to the Independent Television Commission about their future behaviour.

The promises will form part of a last minute appeal to the commission by the Kurds to try to win back their broadcasting licence. The ITC suspended Med TV's licence on March 22 for repeated breaches of broadcasting rules and said it had 21 days to make representations on why the days to make representations on why the ban should not become permanent.

The broadcasts in question carried material likely to encourage or incite crime and disorder. The ITC was concerned that Kurdish extremists had been advocating attacks on tourists in Turkey.

In another broadcast the presenter sat immobile while, off camera, a member of the military wing of the Kurdish Workers Party read out a statement in which he said Kurds should stop burning themselves (there have been a number of selfimmolations) and burn Turks instead.

The members of the commission will this morning hear representations from Med TV, which is estimated to have up to

t6 million viewers. Haikmet Tabak, the managing director, said yesterday that he would give the ITC detailed promises about future behaviour. "We know we have been a headache to the ITC in the past." he acknowledged.

The ITC issued formal warnings and fined Med TV £90,000 before suspending its licence. The commission has even staged internal seminars for senior Med

TV executives on the rules and regula-tions of British broadcasting legislation. The ITC has the power of life or death over Med TV because its signal goes up to the Eutelsat satellite from the UK, after the programmes are put together in Brus-sels. The Med TV executive will tell the ITC that in future greater emphasis will be put on children's programmes, enlertainment and cultural and music programmes. "I am confident we will be able to continue broadcasting." Mr Tabak said. The ITC will still take a considerable

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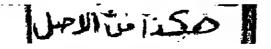
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Changing the face of race reporting

Margaret Michie spent 15 years trying to ensure fair coverage of race issues. At last she sees signs of success, she tells Henry Bonsu

ched its flagship cur-rent affairs programme with what may go down as one of the scoops of the decade: Martin Bashir grilling the five men suspected of Britain's most notorious race murder.

That its producer, Granada. should choose this story to announce the arrival of Tonight shows how far the issue of race has become mainstream.

In the week of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report, Fleet Street expended 1.672 column inches on Sir Wil-Macpherson Cluny's find-

the need for British society Since then tabloids and broadsheets have kept the momenturn going, reporting on institutionalised racism in the police, schools and govern-

ment departments. For Margaret Michie, 47. who has spent 15 years of her career trying to put a positive spin on race relations, the change in the media's willingness to report such stories has been seismic. Michie has just left her job as a senior press officer at the Commission for Racial Equality to join the Portman Group, where she will be promoting the healthy con-

sumption of alcohol. When she joined the CRE in 1984 "passionate about creating a more just society, she found that persuading newspapers to be positive about race was an uphill struggle. Michie recalls being taken aback by the reporting of Britain's inner city riots of 1981 and 1985. What these areas had in common were social deprivation, and tensions be-

The state of the s

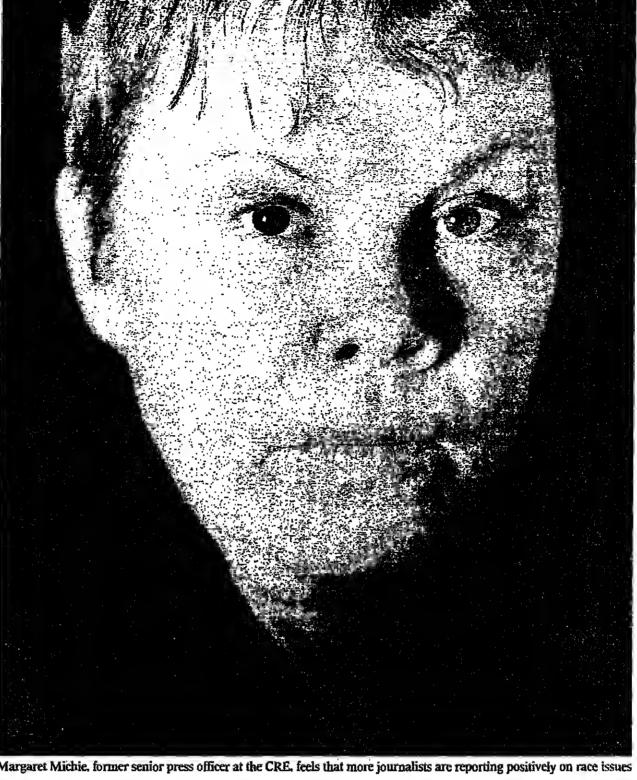
tween the police and the local black community, but this was overlooked. The tenor of the coverage was, at one end, rightly horrified by the violent civil disorder, but on the other the press hadn't tried to understand why the riots had occurred," she says.

The media were not interested in the recommendations of the subsequent Scarman report or the later Swann report on the education of black children. "Most papers were pre-

occupied with reporting the violence black rioters against the of the sensational languto depict all

Rioting on the Broadwater Farm Estate in Tottenham in 1985, and the murder of PC Keith Blakelock, produced the headline "Kill! Kill! Kill!" in the Daily Express of October 8. "Hacked to Death by Hyenas", screamed the Star. Newspapers also ran stories linking black communities with crime in general. Two that stand out in the CRE library are the Daily Mail's "Black Crime: The Alarming Figures", from May 1982, and The Sun's "Black Muggers blamed by Yard". "Those of us in the media office were fielding calls from the public saying that they were outraged. People were worried that these kinds of stories would not just inform the public, but change

their attitude for the worse." The number of race-related complaints to the Press Council jumped from 38 in 1984 to 82 in 1985 and averaged around 80 per year for the rest of the decade. The council rebuked the "intemperate" and



Margaret Michie, former senior press officer at the CRE, feels that more journalists are reporting positively on race issues

Scarman warned editors to use responsibly the power they had to influence attitudes.

Michie, a former teacher, believed that journalists could be educated out of a tendency to use inflammatory language if they could be made to understand the wider social context of race-related stories. But it wouldn't be easy. The 1980s were the years of what she calls "a creeping style of antianti-racism", which led to any pro-black, ie affirmative. action being attacked. She also accuses news-

papers of being reluctant to confirm the "racial" nature of attacks on ethnic minorities. and what the police were doing about them. For Michie and her colleagues, things be-

"sensationalised" language of gan to significantly change at 1997 to a five-year CRE action to complain, attracted widethe NUJ and the Press Council reviewed their codes of practice. As a result editors and journalists were instructed not to include gramitous mention of a person's ethnic origin.

> hus, the move from the Thatcher to the Major years were characterised by a different climate in race reporting. Regular briefings with selected journalists were beginning to pay off.

In 1991 the Daily Mail and The Mail on Sunday highlighted the cases of black soldiers Stephen Anderson and Anthony Evans, who suffered racism in the Army. The publicity helped to persuade the Armed Forces to sign up in

Nothing prepared Michie for the Mail's decision twoyears ago to name five white youths as the killers of Stephen Lawrence, making it a story that merited the Prime Minister's attention. "What the Mail did was lead the others into an area they hadn't been in before. It's one thing to put five faces on the cover, another to call for a public inquiry and another to cover it regularly, then look at its find-

ings." she says.
This new climate has seen the CRE take some bold decisions, on occasion becoming the story itself. Last year its shock poster campaign depicting black men as muggers, rapists and orang-utans, then criticising the public for failing

Michie says the CRE thought hard about the decision, and she makes no apolo-

It was a sign of the CRE's confidence that in 1992 it inaugurated the forthcomig annual Race in the Media Awards (RIMA), of which Michie has taken charge. Last year's competition had twice as many categories as the first. attracting entries from radio and TV, and many national newspapers. Michie says: When we started in 1992 the problem was to find a journalist who had written about race in an informed manner. This year the difficulty will be to make awards because so many have written and done so much about race relacions."

Two cheers for digital

last it can be said officially that digital television has got off to a respectable start. The announcement yeslerday of ONdigital's first subscriber figures since the digital terrestrial channel came on air last November show a creditable performance. Naturally, journalists prodded the 110,000 total to see if there were hidden extras. But ONdigital was emphatic that the figure represented paying subscribers only, or paying subscribers plus those who had already signed their contracts and would join within days.

What's more, the number of subscribers has been accelerating month-on-month and in March 30,000 households signed up

than 30 channels through conventional television aerials. ONdigital could not resist using a little claim that it is

to receive more

growing faster than SkyDigit-al. Of the 350,000 SkyDigital subscribers signed up in

ONdigital's months, only 120,000 were new customers, as opposed to those trading up from old analogue systems. Since ONdigital is for now available in only 70 per cent of the country, it could just claim that its 110,000 represented faster growth than Sky's 120,000 new subscribers.

The propaganda wars will continue to be fun, but it is significant that there are possibly 600,000 homes with digital, multichannel television, - a figure that is likely to rise to 1.5 million by

The arrival in June of £500 Bush television sets with embedded subscription systems, avoiding the need for separate black boxes, should provide a further boost, as will the pay-perview film digital terrestrial service planned by SDL later this year.

It appears, on the admittedly slim evidence of the first real numbers, that a significant slice of Middle Eng-land would like more television, but not too much, and possibly not via a satellite dish. This suggests that there will be room for three competing systems and viewers can choose the package that suits them best.

News of the spread of digital terrestrial came at almost exactly the same time yesterday as Chris Smith, the Culture. Media and Sports Secretary, was launching a report examining the obstacles preventing Britain exporting more television pro-

tronically, the small surplus the UK once had in its television trade with the rest of the world has been opped into deficit by the large flow of American imports needed to service our expanding cable and satellite sector.

The report highlights the old split between television as a commercial industry and a regulated, cultural product. Some of its recommendadons are plainly sen-

sible, such as looking at incentives, including tax breaks, to encourage broadcasters and others to invest in original programme production. Like-

thing could be done about the length of prowhich do not fit the schedules of

foreign broadcasters. Things start to go awry when it is suggested that domestic regulation may be hindering exports. If the suggestion is that regulators are insisting that British broadcasters make pro-grammes of a particular quality for the British audience and that these are not all equally popular abroad, then so be it.

M6 Television in France, for instance, rejected Prime Suspect, Granada's awardwinning police series, because it was so realistic. ing seriously suggested that such a programme should not be made - or at kast not in that way?

Haly's Canale 5 says "television should be about entertainment and escapism". while other potential purchasers say our pro-grammes are "too British". A partial solution is al-

ready here. While more strenuous efforts are made to sell uncompromisingly programmes abroad, there is no reason why Briosh broadcasters should not make more programmes aimed specifically at world markets. It's what Pearson Television has been doing for years.

BT gets in touch with E.T.

IN ADVERTISING, the most obvious ideas are often the best. The genius lies in spotting the obvious. So the understandable reaction to news that Steven Spielberg's E.T. character will be the new face of BT's advertising is why did no one think of that before?

One reason is that BT has enjoyed huge success with its call-stimulation campaigns featuring Buzby, the animaled bird: Maureen Lipman as Beatoe; and, more recently. Bob Hoskins. Hugh Laurie and other celebrioes reminding us that "it's good to talk". But "it's good to talk" had run its

course. BT needed a rethink and opted to review its entire advertising arrangements, separating out tasks such as advertising to young people and business-to-business advertising and giving them to new agencies. Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO, the

agency behind "it's good to talk", managed to hold on to the lion's share of the business, however. And the idea that won the February pitch for the £60 million billing account focused on E.T. and the new slogan, "stay in

No. it's not "phone home", thankfully. That would have led to endless mickey-taking and might have been self-defeating. Instead, BT garners the benefits of the character's famous line without having to resort to such

In any case, Universal Studios and Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment, with which AMV had to negotiate. would not have allowed E.T.'s image to be used if the character were actually to sell the product in the ads. Spielberg is supposed to be seeing the finished commercials (directed by Paul Weiland of City Slickers 2 and Walker's Crisps fame) this week to check that they do not "compromise the character's integrity".

The ads will be launched this weekend with a series of "teasers" in which we see E.T. circling Earth, astonished by some of the changes in evidence since he was last

A blockbuster 60-second commercial in which E.T. returns to Earth will follow next month. Weiland has created new footage to the magnificent soundtrack, amid nearridiculous secrecy. But the gist of it is that E.T. is amazed by the changes in communications technology, and is on a mission to help people to take

advantage of them - including the Internet, data transfer and multimedia. E.T.'s suitability as a "celebrity endorser" lies not just in the "phone home" line but in his intuitive ability



in the original film to understano what Elliott and his sister are thinking. This is what the move-style central ad will pick up on. But isn't E.T. rather an

Eighties icon? If the thought occurs to us, h certainly will have occurred to the agency and to BT. But after exhaustive research, both concluded that the appeal of E.T. is ageless. The film may be 17 years old but

even consumers too young to have seen it originally are familiar with

The ads will not be cheap - but then Maureen Lipman, Bob Hoskins



E.T. moves to BT: why did nobody think of such a good idea before?

either. And BT will get its money's worth from the campaign: television. posters, press ads, direct mail and educational materials will all feature the image of the finger and the "stay in touch" line. Perhaps it will be exported overseas, too. One thing is for sure: given the £50 million budget. we will all become maddeningly familiar with the idea.

FOR clients with shallower pockets than BT, the 60-second commercial has a limited lifespan and, thereafter, cheaper ten-second cutdowns are used in an attempt to eke out the budget - often to confusing effect.

An example of how this can backfire is the current NSPCC campaign. The idea of familiar icons, from teddy bears and Action Men to the Spice Girls and Alan Shearer, covering their eyes against a background of the malevolent things that adults say to children is one of the most powerful charity campaigns around - the more so for not showing the actual cruelty or the victims.

However, in the cut-down, all we are left with is the desperate mother screaming threats at her distressed child. "If you don't shut up, I'll This is a scenario familiar to almost every parent of a young child at some stage in the average week. And the threat is almost always an empty one.

To tar all parents with the opprobrium deserved by, for example, the man in the longer ad who climbs into bed urging "this will just be our little secret . . . " seems offensive.

Overall, this is a disturbing and moving campaign. It seems a shame to alienate people who would be well disposed to its message just because of a change of context brought about by financial restraints.

 Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign.



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Council liability for acts of travellers

Lippiatt and Another v South Gloucestershire Council

Before Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Mummery and Sir Christopiter Staughton (Judgment March 3!)

Ait occupier of land might be held liable for a nuisance where that took the form of repeated acts on the plaintiffs' land commined by persons who were, to the occupier's knowledge, based on his land.

The Unurt of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing the appeal of the plainniffs. Peter Richard Lippiant and Richard Ferhy, against the judgment of Judge Worle, QC, sitting as a judge of the High Court in the Bristol District Registry on June 1, 1998, when he found in favour of South Gloucestershire Council, successor authorito to Avon County Council, and dismissed the planning statement of Jaim for, inter alia, damages peachs) the council for alleged noisames caused to the plaintitis' farm and by tracellers occurving the coancily neighbouring land, on the begin that the claim had no rea-

topable prospects of success. The Court of Appeal territted the case to Bristol District Registry

The phinuffs, tenant farmers of about 480 acres from the Duke of Beguiert of hand on either side of the 440 road between Bath and Stroud, claimed, inter alia, that a arip of land of about 300 yards on the castern side of the road which way owned by the council was occupied by travellers in considerable numbers in caravans from Deto-

her 1991 until their eviction on the council's application by court order in June 1994, that the travellers frequently trespassed on the plaintiffs land, obstructed access to their adjacent field, dumped rubhish and left excrement on it, tethered goats, ponies and horses, stole tumber, gates and fences, damaged the stone wall at its edge, permitted their does to chase the plaintiffs' sheep and acted belligerently to-wards the plaintiffs, their families, employees and neighbours and as-

Mr Barry Payton and Mr Philip Norman for the plaintiffs; Mr W. David Spens for the council.

saulted them, and that such acts

damaged and diminished crops

and rendered them unfit for sale or

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said that the judge accepted the coun-cil's submission that the claim had no prospect of success as a matter of law because of Hussain v Lancaster City Council (The Times May 20, 1998; 11998) 96 LGR 663), and he struck out the plaintiffs' claim as disclusing no cause of action.

His Lordship said that the claim was of activities by travellers which took place off the council's land and in all respects save one on the land of the plaintiffs them-

Mr Spens accepted that the one exception, the allegation that the travellers barred entry to the plaintiffs' land, could give rise to liabili-ny in nuisance because, if it occurred, there was a direct interference with the plaintiffs' use and en-

He submitted that no actionable nuisance was alleged because the activities relied on were those of independent third parties, and they wok place outside the council's

Mr Payton submitted that such a contention had been rejected in Attorney-General v Corke [1933] Ch 89) and was not supported by

In his Lordship's view, Mr Payton was entitled to submit that the point raised by the council was decided in Corke against the defend-ant in an action for nuisance, but equally. Mr Spens was right to say that the claim was brought in that case in respect of a public nui-

However, Smith v Scott ([1973] Ch 3141 provided clear authority that Corke was correctly decided and, more generally, that there was on rule of law which prevented the owner or occupier of land from being held liable for the tort of nuisance by reason of the activides of his licensees which took place off his land.

Further support was provided by Thompson-Schwah v Costoki In his Lordship's view, the facts alleged in Hussain were materially different from those in the present

The disturbance there complained of was a public nuisance for which the individual perpetraturs could be held liable, and they were identified as individuals who lived in council property, but their

linked to, nor did it emanate from. homes where they lived.

The allegation in the present case was that the travellers were allowed to congregate on the council's land and that they used it as a base for the unlawful activities of which the plaintiffs complained.

It was at least arguable that that could give rise to liability in nuisance, and so the claim should not be struck out. It seemed to his Lordship that

upon proof of the alleged facts, and bject to any defences, such liability could be established The council's objection that the claim could not succeed as a mat-

ter of law had to be rejected.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY. agreeing, added that the judge did not appreciate the scope of the plaintiffs pleaded case or the reach

the law of nuisance. That was not altogether surprising as the statement of claim was not as clearly drafted as it might have been, and his attention was not drawn to cases from which it appeared that an occupier of land might be held liable in nuisance in

Those circumstances were that the plaintiffs use and enjoyment of his rights in his land was interfered with by the continuing presence on the defendant's land of persons whose actual or apprehended activities included, to the knowledge of the defendant, harmful acts the plaintiffs' land from their base on land occupied by the defendant. The cases of Corke, Smith v

exceptional circumstances.

Scott and Thompson-Schwab were

The latter case was concerned with a landlord. He was held not to be liable in nuisance for the activities of his tenant which did not invalve use of the land leased by him to the tenant.

There was nothing in that case which precluded a court from holding that an occupier of land might be held liable for a nuisance which consisted of a continuing state of affairs existing on his land where that nuisance manifested itself in the form of repeated acts on the plaintiff's land, and these acts were, to the knowledge of the occupier, committed by persons based on his land and they interfered with the plaintiff's use and enjoy-

ment of his land. It was reasonably arguable that the continuing presence of the travellers on the council's land constituted a nuisance to the plaintiffs' use and enjoyment of their rights in their land, even though the travellers' activities involved using the council's land as a launching pad for repeated acts of trespass on the plaintiff's land.

In the circumstances the case was reasonably arguable in law and on the state of the pleadings, and the judge should not have struck out the claim. Sir Christopher Staughton gave

a judgment agreeing that the ap-peal should be allowed. Solicitors: Moger & Sparrow.

Bath: Mr Eric J. Andrews. Thorn-

Application was not a step in the proceedings

Patel v Patel Before Lord Woolf, Master of the

Rolls, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Trestice Ward

[Judgment March 24] A defendant who applied for a default judgment to be set aside and for leave to defend and counterclaim had not taken any step in the proceedings to answer the substantive claim so as to prevent him being granted a stay of the action in favour of arbitration pursuant to section 9 of the Arbitration Act

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing the appeal of the defendant. Dilesh R. Patel, against the dismissal by Judge Wikm, sitting on official referee's business on Octo-ber 16, 1998, of his summons to stay the action of the plaintiff, Jitendra Bhailalbhai Patel, lor breach of a building contract in favour of arbitration pursuant to section 9 of the 1996 Act Section 9 of the 1996 Act pro

vides: "(3) An application [for a stay| may not be made by a person after he has taken any step in those proceedings to answer the substantive claim."

Mr Mark Raeside for the defenduni: Mr Adam Chambers for the

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the point raised on the appeal had regularly given rise to problems under the Arbitration Act 1950. However, the lan-guage of section 9(3) of the 1996 Act was different from that in section 4(1) of the 1950 Act.

The issue was whether the application for a stay of the plaintiff's ac-tion had been made by the defend-ant before or after he had taken any step in those proceedings to answer the substanove claim.

The plaintill had issued a writ

endorsed with a statement of claim

seeking damages from the defendant for breach of a building con-

The defendant had acknowledged service and endorsed the acknowledgement with a statement of intention to defend the action. Section 9(3) required the defendant to take that step before applying to

stay an action.

The plaintiff had then issued a default judgment, there having been no defence served.

The defendant had issued a summons seeking an order (i) that the delault judgment be set aside and that he be given leave to defend and counterclaim and (ii) that consequential directions be given.

The judge had taken the view that because of the terms of the summons, and, in particular, be-cause the defendant had asked to be given leave to defend the action counterclaim, the defendant had taken a step in the proceedings answer the substantive claim. The question was whether the

judge had been right to come to that conclusion. The defendant had drawn attendon to the fact that the long due of the 1996 Act indicated that it was an Act to restate and improve the law of arbitration; it was not mere

ly a consolidating Act.
His Lordship accepted that the 1996 Acl was meant to make the law of arbitration clearer and less technical than it had been hitherto. The underlying spirit of the Act was very much in accord with the new Civil Procedure Rules which were to apply in the civil cuurts from April 20, 1999.

Therefore, the starting point should be to approach the lan-guage of section 9(3) by applying its acrual words and asking wheth-er the defendant had taken any step to answer the substantive claim. Everything turned on the applied to set aside the default judg. ment could not be of any assistance to the plaintiff.

Unless such an application had been made there would have been nothing to stay. Therefore, if the defendant had merely asked for the default judgment to be set aside he would undoubtedly have been entiried to a stay.

But the defendant had asked for leave to defend the action and counterelaim. The plaintiff had said that that was a clear indication that he was going to defend the action and counterclaim. His Lordship recognised the

force of that submission. However, the fact was that the defendant did not need leave to defend and counterclaim, he was entitled to do so once the default judgment had been set aside, that was in fact onose to the relief that he needed.

He had also asked for consequential directions but that was ambivalent. One direction could have been for a stay. There was no sign of election at that request.

Therefore the appeal turned on whether, by asking for something utiose to the relief that he needed the defendant was to be deprived of his right under the Act to a stay. It seemed to his Lordship that if

the mere inclusion of something ofose in a summons of this sort deprived the defendant of his right under the Act to a stay that would be inconsistent with the spirit of the Act.

His Lordship would allow the appeal and grant the delendant a stay of the action. Lord Justice Otton gave a con-

curring judgment and Lord Justice

Solicitors: Manis, Thornton Heath: Myers Ebner & Deaner

Oral agreement for sub-tenancy valid as assignment Pare (Battersea) Ltd (in ad-

ministrative receivership) and Another v Hulchinson Sed to Mr Justice Moore-Bick [Judg new March [8]]

By Action 53()(a) of the Law of Property Act 1925 the disposal of an interest in land by operation of law need for be in virting. Accordingly a valid or all agreement for the creaaon of a sub-lenancy for a period and less than the remaining term of the lease, under which the grantor himself heid, took effect as an ussignment of the remainder of the

Mr Justice Moore-Bick, sining is an additional judge of the Chancery the islam, so held in a reserved indement handed down in chamber", allowing the appeal of the observiffs, Parc Bouersea Ltd and Mosarycod Holdings Ltd, both in emigrafice receivership, from the district of the Muster Moneaster or November 17, 1998 of their apolication for summary judgriger on their claim for possessi**on** subject to the determination of the influency preliminary issues of iary in their favour, namely:

(a) whether a tenancy pleaded by the defendant. Mr Tom Hutchinson, in way of defence was a tenuncy for a term corrain expiring on or after March 31, 1998; and if so (b) whether that tenancy operated as an assignment of Monarun Lid's lease in so far as it related to premises comprised in the tenan-

Mr Timothy Dutton for the plaintiffs: Mr Thomas Jefferies for

said that on December 4, 1997 the plaintiffs granted a lease over part of some land situated at Battersea. London, to Monarun Ltd for a fixed term expiring on March 31. 1998. Steps were taken to exclude that lease from the operation of sections 24 to 28 of the Landlord and

By an oral agreement made on December 8, 1997 Monarum sublet part of that land to the defenduni at a rent of £300 a month. The defendant entered into occupation

When Monarun's lease expired by effluxion of time the plaintiffs sought to take possession of the property. The plaintiffs discovered that Mr Hutchison was in occupation of part of the land.

main in occupation because Mon-

arun had granted him a monthly

the defendant. MR JUSTICE MOORE-BICK

Tenani Act 1954.

Furthermore, Mr Hutchison claimed that he was entitled to re-

periodic tenancy which was protected under the Landlord and Tenant

Act 1954. While a sub-tenancy in favour of Mr Hulchinson, even if granted in breach of the lerms of the headlease, was capable of falling within the terms of the 1954 Act opmenr Ltd (1971) 1 Ch 17), Mr Dunon submined that the grant of a sub-lease for a period not less than the remaining term of the lease under which the granior himself held took effect not as a sublease but as an assignment of the remainder of the grantor's term. In Milmo v Correras (1946) 1

KB 306, 3101 applied by Lord Justice Slade in Trustees of Henry Smith's Chority v Willson (1983) I QB 316) and by Lord Justice Raipi Gibson in Grosvenor Estate Belgravio v Cochron ([1992] EGLR 83. 54). Lord Greene, Master of the

Where a lessee, by a document in the form of a sub-lease, divests himself of everything that he has got (which he must necessarily do if he is transferring to his so-called sub-lessee an estate as great as, or purporting to be greater than, his own) he from that moment on is a that the relationship of landlord

and tenant cannot exist any longer between him and the so-called sub-

If those authorities covered the present case, there could be no answer to the plaintiffs' claim for possession of the property, because by virtue of the assignment Mr Hutch-inson received only an unprotected lease: see St Giles Hotel Ltd v Mi-croworld Technology Ltd (1997) 2

EGLR 105). Mr Jefferies sought to distinguish those cases on the basis that a valid oral agreement for a sub-tenancy extending for the whole of the remainder of the term could not operate as an assignment of the grantor's term because it was not possible to assign a term other

than by a written instrument Accordingly such an agreement was of no effect in law, and Mr Hutchinson became a monthly periodic tenant by virtue of entering lnto possession and making pay-

A person seeking to assign a lease must generally either execute deed, in which case the instrument will be capable of transferring a legal estate by operation of section 52 of the 1925 Act, or he must execute a written instrument which can be construed as an enforceable con-

tract to assign the lease which satisfies the requirements of section 53, and now also section 2 of the Law

of Property (Miscellaneous Provi-

sions) Act 1989. Mr Dutton submitted that the grant of an oral tenancy for a peri-od which exceeded the remainder of the grantor's term could assign a parol lease as an assignment by op-eration of law, an exception to the requirement that such interests might only be disposed of in writing found within section 53(1)(a) it-

in Milmo v Carrenzs it was only the operation of the rule of law which the court recognised and ap-plied which enabled the conveyance represented by the parol ten-ancy agreement to take effect withing under seal.

in the present case Monarun did not set out to assign its term to Mr Hutchinson. The agreement was incapable of creating an effective sub-tenancy because Monarun had no reversion, and there was no privity of estate between them. If the agreement had any effect at all it could only be as an assign-

ment of Monarun's term, but that could only occur by operation of law, that is, the rule in Milmo v Section 53(1)(a) was therefore and to cover the position where an oral transaction which would otherwise be effective in accordance with its

terms took effect by operation of w in a manner different from that contemplated by the parties. It was not anomalous for the assignment of a lease, which would ordinarily require writing, could be effected orally in that way as an assignment by operation of law in that manner could only occur in bimited circumstances. It was no more anomalous than the fact that an agreement for a short lease could also be made orally.

Solicitors: Cameron McKenna: Payne Hicks Beach.

Great caution required over foreign jurisdiction cases

Smyth v Behbehani and Oth-CIS

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Sed-

[Judgment March II] in a dispute where legal proceedings were in progress in a foreign country, the English court had to proceed with great caution before granting relief to one of the parties

in the form of a negative declaration of non-liability. The court had to ensure that a claimant was not seeking to gain procedural advan-tage of an illegitimate nature.

But the English court could make such a declaration in circumstances where It was satisfied that to do so would be of procedural ad-

vantage both to the claimant and

to the interests of justice. The Court of Appeal so held dis-missing an interlocutory appeal by the first defendant, Abdul Major Saeed Behbehani, from the refusal by Mr lan Hunter, QC. sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division on May 22, 1998, of a stay of an action brought in England by the plainoff, Naz Smyth, against Mr Behbehani, Maha Abdul Majeed Behbehani and Philip Ross &

Miss Barbara Dohmann. QC and Miss Monica Carss-Frisk for the first defendant: Mr Roger Ellis. QC and Mr Robert Lamb for the

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the plaintiff was a British citzen. The first defendant was a Ku-

waiti national resident in Kuwait. in 1996 he issued proceedings in Sharjah asserting rights to repay-ment of three transfers of money from the plaintiff. In April 1998 the court in Sharjah held that it had jurisdiction to hear part only of that

The plaintiff, who challenged the jurisdiction of the Sharjah court, issued her writ claiming a negative declaration to the effect that she was not liable to repay any of the sums transferred.

The judge found that there was an important procedural advantage to the plaintiff in having all the transfers examined by a single court and that the most appropriare forum for that was the English court even though proceedings con-tinued in Sharjah in relation to one of the transfers.

After referring to Saipem SpA v Dredging VO2 BV (The Volvox Hol-landia | |1988| 2 Lloyd's Rep 361). Camilla Cotton Oil Co v Granudex SA [1976] 2 Lloyd's Rep 10) and First National Bank of Boston v Union Bank of Switzerland [1990] I Lloyd's Rep 32), the judge reminded himself that the English courts proceeded with great caution where the principal or only claim was for a negative declaration because, he said, claims were often brought to gain procedural advantage of an illegitimate nature.

But, he added, there were cases where a claim for a negative decla-ration made very good sense and that was the case here. Not only was the judge entitled

to take the view that there was an

mporiani procedural advantage to the plaintiff in the course he proposed, there was also an important dvantage to the interests of jus-It was in the interests of justice

that proceedings in relation to comparable transactions should all be tried at one and the same time.

Bearing in mind the actual cirto make his decision, namely that this was not an application to strike out, but an application for a stay on the ground of forum non conveniens, the judge was entitled to hold that the claim for a negative declaration did not disentitle the plaintiff from pursuing her proceedings in this country.

Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Sedley gave concurring judg-

Solicitors: Kingsley Napley: Soo-

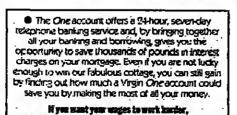


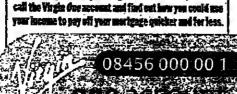
O Today Tre Times, in association with the Virgin One account, offers readers the chance to win a lovely cottage in the typical Cornish village of Percanwell Station, Smithy Cottage, with its two bedrooms and pictty garden, is the ideal holiday home. Close to Truto and an 18-hole golf course, our prize cottage will provide the lucky winner with the perfect



place from which to watch the eclipse of the sun on August 11. HOW TO ENTER Collect 12 Times tokens and two tokens from The Sunday Times and attach them to an entry form which appears again on Tuesday. Tokens will appear up to April 18 and a bonus token is published every Friday, sea below. The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received by Fuday, April 30, 1909. Normal Times Newspapers prize draw rules apply. The terms and conditions will appear again tomorrow







CHANGING TIMES

Adverse inference from refusal

F v Child Support Agency Before Mr Justice Scott Baker Dudgment March 251

An adverse inference drawn from a refusal to provide a blood sample in accordance with a court order could be used to rebut a presump-

oon of legitimacy.

Mr Justice Scott Baker so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by Fagainst the decision of the Birmingham Family Proceedings Court on April 27, 1998 to allow an application by the Child Support Agency for a declaration of parentage under section 27 of the Child Support Act 1991 that F was the father of a child. B.

born to P. Miss Rosalind Bush for F: the agency did not appear and was not

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER aid that Fhad unprotected sexual relations with P when P was married to another man and P later

gave birth to a child. 8. The court admitted under the Children (Admissibility of Hearsay Evidence) Order (SI 1993 No 6211 hearsay evidence from P as to the contents of a report of a DNA test made three years previously which she said had excluded behusband from being the father of

F refused to comply with the directions of the court to provide a test blood sample. His Lordship aid that F gave no justifiable expla-nation for refusing to provide a sample and the court was entitled to draw adverse inferences against It was plain that even where the

presumption of legitimacy existed, a putative father declined to give blood at his peril when ordered to do so by the court. The justices were entitled to find that the presumption of legitimacy of B arising from P's marriage was rebutted by her hearsay evidence as to the DNA test and the adverse

provide a sample, and accordingly that F was the father of B. Solicitors: Fentmans, Solibull.

inference drawn from F's refusal to



EDUCATION

Real-life lesson in drugs

Teenagers are tuning into a BBC docusoap. Hannah Betts reports

he BBC's latest docu-soap. Jailbirds — set in New Hall Prison. Wakefield, West Yorkshire - has come as a gift for teachers who want to incorporate real-life stories into their school's drug-prevention programmes. Melissa Me-redith, 18, who is a former hernin addict and one of the senes participants, has turned out to be a powerful negative

role model.

When the programme showed her arrival in prison, it became clear that her morning heroin hit was not the only reason she greeted her sur-roundings with incomprehension: Mehssa is from what is termed "a good home" and her parents believe that peer pressure led to her addiction. Her transition, from an ambitious girl who had been expected to do well in nine GCSEs at her local secondary school to a prisoner, took only 12 months. Drug addiction changed Melissa into a jailbird, something that neither her parents nor she had expected.

Chris Terrill, the creator of Jailbirds, aims to make socially responsive programmes, but he fell on this particular by-product of the series almost by accident, during a talk about his career to sixth-formers at Brighton College, an independent school.

"As soon as I began showing Jailbirds, the group was on the edge of its seat," Mr Terrill explains. "I spent five years as a teacher, so I'm very aware of young people's huge hunger for facts at that age."

The experience at Brighton is just the tip of the iceberg. In Jailbirds' first week on air, the the programme's helpline received 150 calls. After Melissa's story was broadcast, 4,000 reople, mostly young, phoned

about drugs. tament to the docusoap aesthet-

the tests were introduced as being designed to identify individuals who were

good at understanding other people's

As the idea of gender differences in men-

tal capacines has begun to lose credibility.

researchers have focused on the different

ways in which the sexes learn. Research

can be contradictory, but an analysis of 22 studies around the world has found

some common strands and suggested that

there are some clear gender differences in

A study at the University of Amsterdam

suggests that women have more of a "sur-

the learning process.

problems by isolating central issues.

can be a turn-off to more rebellious youngsters. We wanted to do something different."

Anthony Seldon. Headmaster of Brighton College, endorses the approach. "Kids need deterrents, but are bored by policemen holding up banned packages. This series plays to a different part of their psyche. appealing to their emotions."

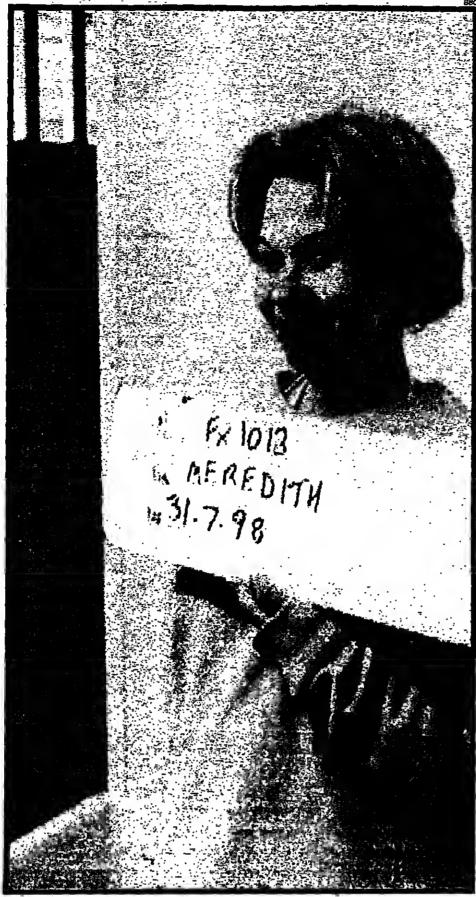
Brighton College has never adopted a head-in-the-sand attitude towards drugs. A visit from Leah Betts's father last term demonstrated to students that drugs can be the cause of an untimely death, but before Jailbirds, few had appreciated the deadening effects drugs

can have on one's life.

Mr Seldon says: "It's not just that they say this isn't a middle-class thing. Young people use every reason they can to claim that they won't be affected, that it's about northerners or southerners; teenagers' skills of projection rarely extend to seeing the potential impact on the people who care about them most their parents. Children don't think of the parental point of view. They need to be made to think from this perspective. Seeing Melissa's parents weeping at home shocked the youngsters into some sort of realisation."

evidence were needed of the unglamorous reality of the post-docusoap lives of the Jailbirds stars, it is the Easter holiday that Melissa has just passed at home. Trying to kick her habit for the seventh time in as many months, she was confined to the house, continually

watched over by her parents. Eight months after the series was made. Bob Meredith. Melissa's father and a construction company general foreman in Barton-upon-Humber, says: "My wife and I have did the programme as a deterrent to other children. Ultimately, if Melissa can get her



Bob Meredith: "Melissa's a likeable girl and I think she could really influence teenagers"

into schools to tell kids how

dangerous drugs are." Now off heroin, Melissa is Whether or not she turns apostle, it is Melissa's own words that offer the most powerful message of this modern moral-

Why girls seem smarter

How you learn depends on gender, says Tony Mooney

ity tale of Jailbirds: "If you're on it, get off it, because you will end up the same.

You'll think. I wouldn't ever end up in jail, or robbing; but you will. It just turns you bad. Bad. Lower than low."

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited announces that its base rate has changed from 5.5% to 5.25% p.a. with effect from close of

Grindlavs

Still time to avert strike chaos

ne astounding fact stood out from the hundreds of debates, fringe meetings and briefings that have taken place in the fortnight of classroom union conferences, which ends today. It was the revelation to a disbelieving press corps that the National Union of Teachers had not held a national strike for 30 years. Had our ears been deceiving us as we endured Easter after Easter of rub-thumping? Perhaps: it appears that the annual seaside spectacle, which a rival union leader once said caused teachers to switch off news bulletins in embarrassment, last resulted in a one-day strike in 1969. There have been boycotts, work-to-rules and co-ordinated local strikes, but the threats of "dassroom chaos" that punctuate every NUT conference have somehow nev-

er materialised One reason is the union's tightly framed rulebook, which enables the comparatively mod-erate leadership to block most calls to the barricades. Demands for action that pass this hurdle face the need for a two-thirds majority of eligible vot-ers (not just those voting) if there is any question of members making claims on the quainty named "sustenation

It takes rare unanimity from the NUT's perpetually warring political factions, and genuine feeling among the 190,000 members, to turn conference rhetoric into militant practice.

Might the issue of performance-related pay create such conditions? It appears so, when even the more moderate Association of Teachers and Lecturers is prepared to contemplate industrial action and the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers is keeping this weapon in reserve in case negotiation fails. The NUT leadership is behind the call for a strike, rather than trying to frustrate militant opponents, and conference delegates of all political shades were determined to make a stand against the Government's proposals.

Should parents, in that case, prepare themselves for a summer - and even an autumn - of disruption to school life? Probably not. for a number of reasons. The NUT's ordinary members, predominantly in primary schools, will be harder to convince than the conference firebrands that strike action will "force" the Government to come up with £3,000 pay rises all round. The other unions are upping the ante in the hope of weakening the link between pay and pupils' results, but they are a long way from strike action. Even the NUT is proposing only a one-day

strike next term. Public examinations will not be affected, although the union could decide to target national curriculum tests, which they have always resented. Sustained strike action - if it comes at all - is likely to be in the autumn, but that presupposes that feelings will still be running as high after the long summer huliday, when the scheme may have been amended.

However, it would be a mistake for the politicians to believe that opposition to their current proposals is confined to those whose idea of an enjoyable Easter is a rerun of the debates they held the previous year. Head teachers, for example, are rightly concerned that annual appraisal of all their staff will take up an inordinate amount of time, while

the Institute of Personnel and Development has warned against using the same process for career development and salary purposes.

The real obstacle to agreement with the teachers, however, is their fear of payment by results. The NUT is particularly vehement on the subject because the whole history of the union is bound up with resistance to the Victorian system. which divided schools and saw teachers evicted from tied cottages. Ministers are yet to convince classroom practitioners that their scheme bears no resemblance to its 19th-century predecessor, although anyone who has examined the detail of

their proposals should have no doubt. Pupils' results will be only one element of performance and schools will be able to set the targets they choose, taking account of the prior achievement of each class.

To some extent David Blunkett and his colleagues have been hoist with their own pe-tard in trying to spell out every stage of the process. Head teachers should have as much flexibility as possible to see that the best teachers are rewarded, and the Government's understandable insistence on "something for something" should not mean the loading of additional and possibly unnecessary responsibilities on to those who seek recognition. The main purpose of the exercise is to keep the best teachers in the classroom, not to di-

vert them into extraneous activities. Once teachers are convinced that this will be the outcome, the spectre of prolonged industrial action will surely recede. Even those with doubts about the scheme will recognise that government offers of £1 billion do not come around very often and, in the real world, are hardly likely to come with no strings attached.

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THE COURTS CROWN IS THE REFERNATIONAL PROVICE BANKING ARM OF MATERIAL CERVIC



Fear of failure is a factor that can improve the learning capabilities of girls

be one explanation for the success of girls. Teachers play a particularly important role in female learning because girls tend to want tasks defined in more detail than boys do. Such an approach is likely to apreal to a teacher's feeling of self-importance and to meet a favourable response. which is encouraging to girls. The emphasis teachers place on the consequences of academic failure is another advantage to girls in school. The Dutch academics also found that fear of failure was a factor that improved the learning capabilities of girls. Boys seem to have a more cavalier

face approach to learning than men: they are more inclined to commit learning to attitude to learning. memory. Though the researchers do not A study at Lancaster, Durham and Shefmake the link, because schools still emfield universities and London University's phasise the ability to memorise, this could Institute of Education also identified moti-

vational reasons behind girls' superior performance. Using data on almost 1,200 children in two comprehensives, the researchers found that girls are more "taskorientated" than boys: they gain satisfaction from developing their understanding of the work they are doing. Boys are more "ego-orientated": they gain satisfaction from their studies through performing better, or at least, no worse than others.

Teachers will need to devise ways of introducing competition into the learning process to meet the needs of boys without alienating the girls. At secondary level schools need to note that boys are more interested in gaining qualifications than in

the intrinsic value of courses. • The author is a former head teacher.

Lloyd puts Davis Cup job on line

By ALIX RAMSAY, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

NEVER has there been quite such a wiping of brows, a clear-ing of throats or a sucking of iceth as at the draw for the Davis Cup world group releganon play-offs yesterday. Despite all the efforts of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski over the Easter weekend, Great Britain lost their tie with the United States and therefore have just one more chance to stay in the world group. So when South Africa were pulled out of the hat, at home. there was relief all round.

There were several nations lying in wait for Britain, all of whom could have made life difficult. The thought of playing Chile away on clay after the

DRAW

ers of following matches pro at year's world group, lose

ed group one competences
Czech Republic v * Ucbelostan
Romania v Germany
Great Britan v South Africa
Finland v * Italy
The Netherlands v * Ecuador
New Zeatend v Spen
Sweden v * Austra
Chile v * Zmbabwe

US Open was enough to make brave men tremble. Marcelo Rios may be short of both leg and commitment, but what he can do on a clay court in Santiago has never been in question. On the other side of the coin, everyone wanted to draw Finland, a team including such household names as Tuo-

mas Ketola and Ville Liukko. South Africa are not exactly a pushover, but give Britain a more than fighting chance. Wayne Ferreira will lead the South Africans and he has a good record against both Brit-ish men, tying 2-2 with Hen-man and 4-4 with Rusedski.

denotes country has choice of venue
 ☐ Ties to be played on September 24-26

Henman and Ferreira seem

to take it in turns to win, with

Henman taking the honours last time in Stockholm in November, but Rusedski has beaten Ferreira in their past three meetings, most recently at the US Open last year.

Not that Lloyd, Henman or Rusedski were anywhere to be seen. They have all gone their separate ways in search of sun and relaxation. From the beach in Barbados, Lloyd was as optimistic as ever.

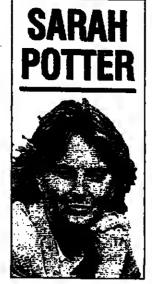
"South Africa have a good team, they are tough cookies," he said. "Ferreira can be a great player but on a bad day he can be awful. After last weekend, to have a home tie is terrific and it will be fantastic for the fans, but for me it is an absolutely vital match. We cannot afford to lose the momentum we have gained. We can-not afford to be relegated." Lloyd has pinned his imme-

diate future on the tie. "I am quite a proud individual," he said, "and I'm very self-critical. If I lose this tie, it will be my last match as captain. I won't hang around."
He is already thinking of

venues and playing surfaces. The South Africans are brought up on cement, so we don't want that," he said. "We have the option of either going indoors or playing on grass and grass is to our advantage." Lloyd believes Queen's Club could be the ideal venue. We have to play it where the public can come and see it. I firmly believe the tie will be a sell-out and Queen's can seat 0.000 to 7,000."

Britain's only flaw is the lack of back-up. South Africa can call upon Ferreira, Marcos Ondruska, ranked 136, and David Nainkin, ranked 139, while their pairing of Adams and De Jager are No 5 in the doubles rankings. Without either Henman or Rusedski. the British team looks very

Lister searching for final flourish



ey players expect to carry their sticks for most of the year in pursuit of titles, cups and med-als. Those in the eight-club women's Premier National League could, however, be forgiven for thinking that the final whistle should already have blown on a competition that started in October and finished almost a month ago.

This year, however, the English Hockey Association has called for extra time by deciding to use play-offs to find its champion. Slough, Ipswich, Hightown and Clifton must go first to Reading, on April 17, ahead of the final at the National Stadium in Milton Keynes, in early May.

Sandie Lister, a former England and Great Britain midfield player who has played for Ipswich for 17 years, admits it is a little hard on Slough, who finished top of the league. The side who goes through a whole season and comes out with more points than anyone else should be acknowledged as the true winners," she said.

The chance to travel the artificial turf of foreign lands as Slough, the English cham-pions, and Clifton, the cup holders, have been doing — is the prize at stake. "Play-offs are an exciting finale to the season." Lister said, "and it means the club who finished fourth still has a chance to win and qualify for the European club championship."

Uoder Lister's captaincy, lpswich have done that three imes before. This season, be-



fore injuries and jitters stalled their momentum, the Suffolk side looked like they would score the psychological goal by finishing top. "Because of the the play-offs system." Lister said, "we wanted first or second place."

They now get two chances of reaching the final. Slough and Ipswich will play at Reading and the winner goes forward to Miltoo Keynes. The victors from the other tie will play the losers of the Slough v Ipswich match to decide the other finalists.

Lister, 37, acknowledges her own stopwatch is ticking. "Realistically for me, we've got to win it this year," she said. "I want to compete in Europe again but I can't see myself playing any more after next

She has been here before,

gium in 1982, "My appetite for hockey hasn't lessened," she said. "On ability alone I could have carried on playing for England, but I occded to stop and do other things."

on a 13-year international career that began against Bel-

One of the sacrifices she made was to turn her back on another sporting passion cricket. Lister represented Jun-

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gan to overlap, was forced to choose. Stick beat bat, although last autumn she represented England in the first women's indoor cricket World Cup in Australia. "I was brought up in Yorkshire, so I have some regrets about crick-et," she said. "The World Cup was fun, although we didn't do very well and the oumbers playing in the indoor leagues

seem to be in decline." Hockey is a different story. where the elite become fulltime professionals months ahead of the big events. "If we are going to compete with the best nations people can't train with full-time jobs," said Lister, a teacher at King Edward VI school in Bury St Ed-

"But the appetite for winning doesn't come through money. It's about personal attitude and the capacity to push yourself further than anyone else. That's difficult to coach

'It's all about attitude and the capacity to push yourself further than anyone'

and I'm not sure all the youngsters fully realise that."

Lister hopes increased pro-fessionalism will not swamp old-fashioned sportsmanship.
The Premier League is highly competitive, which is why it's so prized," she said. "But I think sometimes things are carried off the field in a way they never used to be."

Top of Lister's list of happy moments is leading England out at the now defunct Wembley international and winning bronze at the Barcelona Olympic Games. "I used to go to the Wembley international on a school trip every year and it was everyone's dream to play there," she said. "The Olympics were probably my proudest moment and that feeling, standing on the medal

rostrum, is unforgettable." With her self-confessed "twight zone" fast approaching. Lister knows one more national title would provide another notable landmark for her already glittering memory lane.

S

University

Hamed's Hamed's entrance may leave Ingle cold By Srikumar Sen Boxing correspondence Estimates

THE special entrances of Na. seem Harned go down a treat with the punters and, more often than not, last longer than the main event. But when Hamed meets Paul Ingle, of Scarborough, at the Manches. ter Evening News Arena on Saturday, the son et lumière might not go down well with

the Scarborough man. Hamed's brother, Riath, the boxer's business manager, has planned a special entrance that will last around 15 minutes. 'We have something special planned, he said Something that's not been done before.

However, Ingle will not wait in the ring more than five min-utes for Hamed to start the fight and if he is kept waiting any longer he will go back to his dressing-room. "If it takes more than five minutes, we're out of the ring," Frank Maloney, Ingle's manager, said yesterday. "This is not a gimmick. My fighter is not warming up in the dressing-

Maloney's non-compliant attitude was in keeping with his irritation after Hamed reminded him that locale his Time programmal reminded him that Ingle had been knocked down in train-ing in Pennsylvania. "If that happened in training, what would happen to him in the ring?" Harned kept repeating throughout the final meeting between the two boxers in Manchester yesterday. Predictably, it was not long before the conference descended into a slanging match.

However, it was not Hamed who started the verbal punchup. Matters came to a head only when Steve Pollard, Ingle's trainer, riled Hamed by asking him if he was in good health. Pollard said he did not want him to make any excuses after losing his title.

Ingle kept quiet. After 13 weeks of training he remains confident of beating the "un-beaten". He has £10.000 on himself to win at 5-1.

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England grope for answers to one-day failings

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN SHARJAH

IF THE problem of England's World Cup contracts is moving closer to a resolution. progress on the field is becoming altogether harder to spot. record of seven losses in eight one-day international matches is a disturbing one and there is little evidence to suggest that England are likely to improve it in the sweltering heat here.

They arrived hoping success in the Coca-Cola Cup would build confidence, but now the gloomier corollary must be considered. Extending the sequence of defeats will leave self-belief drained ahead of the opening game of the bigger tournament, against Sri Lanka on May 14.

David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, yesterday refused to underplay the significance of the game against India tonight, and declined the easy option of blaming the con-

Pakistan give hint of future potential

SHARJAH (Pakistan won toss): Pakistan beat India by

LIKE England 24 hours previ-ously, India found themselves powerless to deny Pakistan anything but resounding victory at the CBFS Stadium last night. Evidently it requires more than familiarity with conditions here in Sharjah to threaten an invigorated side such as Pakistan, who appear more united and resourceful

with each performance. They took the attack to the India bowlers from the opening overs, when ljaz Ahmed threatened to reprise his glorious century against England and, after a stutter in mid-innings, totalled 279 for eight from 50 overs. In contrast, the India opeoers showed little stomach for the pace of

India might, briefly, have hit Jadeja in front of his held thoughts of victory when stumps India had reached the Kumble removed ljaz leg-be- point of no return.

PUBLIC NOTICES

2. 25

dirions here for a 90-run loss to Pakistan on Wednesday, when England conceded 323 runs in 50 overs, their most generous performance in almost 300 limited-overs fixtures. For Alec Stewart, the captain, it contributed towards a subdued 36th birth-

day yesterday. Having consistently reiterated that winning the tournament takes priority over experimenting for the World Cup, England are in danger of fail-ing to reach the final a week today unless bowlers chosen with overcast mornings back home in mind can find ways to restrict opposing batsmen and the fielding shows a marked

While Graveney said that the top six could be "taken as read" - a tacit acknowledge-ment that Andrew Flintoff has overtaken Adam Hollioake -

fore sweeping after an extrava-

gant flurry of strokes. Howev-

er, Inzamam and Yousuf You-

hana played themselves in

gradually before completing a

fourth wicket partnership of

140 in 28 overs. Even when he

was hit on the foot by Srinath.

Inzamam decided to continue

with a runner before leaving

for hospital after being caught

by Azharuddin off Prasad for

107. Youhana overcame initial

difficulties against the leg-

spinner to reach 57 when be

The decline of the innings

began when Akhtar beat

Ramesh for pace, an attempted pull finding mid-

wicket off the splice of the bat.

Ganguly suffered a questiona-

Saglain went around the wick-

et but when Mahmood had

Azharuddin caught behind

as beaten by Srinath.

again after conceding 18 on Wednesday. The absence of Sachin Tenthe opening partnership of dulkar, who has decided to rest a back injury until the World Cup, has substantially weakened India who. like Eng-land, have suffered against Pakistan of late.

Graveney believes that new terms offered by the England and Wales Cricket Board for the World Cup will be approved by the players, who rejected the initial approach. No more money is offered overall. but it is understood that a basic sum upfront is greater and a minimum payment is guaranteed to anybody injured during the build-up.

Nick Knight and Stewart is

overdue a stand of substance.

larly disappointing and we

have to dig deep for a perform-ance against India," Graveney

said. "The form of the top of

the order is a concern, but I

am confident of the ability of

"We are here to stop what has become a serious lack of

success and that means pick-

ing the best team for these con-

dirions. My consistent stance

is that we need to embark on

these tournaments more often

day after failing to trouble the Pakistan batsmen and his

most likely replacement is Ian

Austin. Flintoff is unlikely to

be asked to bowl the final over

Robert Croft is vulnerable to-

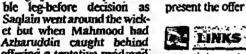
the two lads there.

than in the past."

The run of results is particu-

know the terms, and based on a conversation with Alec I am confident that contracts will be signed either here or after players have taken them home for their lawyers," Graveney said.

Given the importance of the matter it is surprising that Simon Pack, the board's international teams director, has chosen to remain in England rather than travelling to present the offer in person.



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Hughes gives stubborn lead

By Ivo Tennant

FENNER'S (first day of three; Cambridge University won toss): Cambridge University have scored 261 for seven wickets against Lancashire

AT A time when administrators are thrashing around in pursuit of change and appeasing the Minister of Sport, tranquillity still pervades Fenner's. County cricketers still seem to relish coming here as well as the Parks at the start of the season, and not merely with batting averages in mind.

Derek Randali, the Cambridge University coach, gamboiled around in the spring sunshine and remarked that he had never before seeo sunglasses worn on the opening day of the season. True, it still announces itself in an apologetic way, but there was a fair crowd and not a blanket nor a Thermos in sight. Some of the

ON TUESDAY

cricket was commendable too What has not remained constant is the old custom of the Cambridge captain, upon winning the toss, inviting the visitors to bat. When the stars are absent, in Sharjah or on the treatment table, there is not the same companction to do so. Anyway, it was sufficiently warm for Schofield, the young Lancashire leg spinner. to bowl more overs, 23, than

Without Singh, Smith and House, all of whom will be playing county cricket this summer, Cambridge's batting is not what it was last year. They are captained by Quentin Hughes, whose innings of 84 yesterday equalled his highest first-class score, achieved last year against Glamorgan. He does not boast a spectacular career average, nor a contractual attachment to a county, but he is solid enough.

Six Blues remain, including imraan Mohammed, son of Sadiq, a former Pakistan tally, is not a scorecard compil-er's error: unlike Abdul Qadir's son, he is not named does with the ball is another



Study still took priority for one spectator as the new Fenner's season began yesterday

after Imran Khan. What he does do, is bat with marked concentration, for he took an hour to make 12 even though the pitch that was not as slow as might be imagined for the

earliest ever start to a season. The most promising performance of the day came from Smethurst, a rangy and decidedly nippy bowler from Middleton in the Central Lancashire League, who was making his debut. He had Pyemont leg-before and, shortly becaught low down by the wicketkeeper. How much he

there is time enough to im-

All the other players Lancashire fielded had first-team experience. Only four of them are likely to be regulars this season, but now is the time to make an impression. And in the middle of all the action. taking one wicket with his medium pace and another with bis off spin, and chasing the ball as hard as anyone, was Watkinson, a greying figure keen as ever he was. Fenner's in the springtime has that ef-

fect on you.

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University bowlers keep mind on the jcb

By JACK BAILEY

THE PARKS (first day of three: Oxford won toss): Worcestershire have scored 284 for six wickets against Oxford University

IF THE first-class season has to start on April 8 - the earliest date on record - it could do so in many worse places than The Parks. A crisp. spring day and a benign pitch were all in favour of Worcestershire's batsmen, but although Paul Pollard, lately of Nottinghamshire, opened his account for Worcestershire with a halfcentury, featuring in a century opening partnership with Philip Weston, and David Leatherdale cruised to 71, Oxford were worthy opponents.

Cheap runs were at a premium. The Oxford bowlers, featuring two left-arm seamers in Dean Kino and David Mather, and Tom Hicks, an accurate purveyor of off spin, concentrated on line and length. Their fielding, with James Fulton outstanding, was keen and effective, although a third man for the quicker bowlers would

have saved many runs.

Although Pollard and Weston produced some sparkling off drives, they were never wholly dominant. Only when Leatherdale, in spite of fading light, busied himself with strokes all round the wicket, moving to his half-century from 76 balls with eight fours, did Oxford look like wilting.

It was perhaps significant that Hicks, who had bowled 26 overs on the trot before tea. taking two wickets for 61, had been rested before Leatherdale got under way. Hicks did not achieve much turn, but his accuracy and change of pace were potent weapons. Kino also impressed. His figures suffered more than most from finding the outside edge with

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Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 67 of the Transport Act 1962 and section 129 of the Railways Act 1993 that Great North Eastern Railway Ltd., has made byelaws relating to the railway of Creat North Eastern Railway Ltd. and intend to apply to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions for his confirmation. A copy of the byelaws in respect of which application for confirmation is to be made can be inspected free of charge for a period of 28 days starting from the date of this notice -

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Dated this 9th day of April 1999 D | O'Sullivan Esq., Company Secretary for and on behalf of Great North Eastern Railway Ltd. Sea Containers House 20 Upper Ground London SE1 9PF

Light airs leave Ariel struggling

SAILING

HAVING won almost every stage of the Clipper 98 round the world race for paying ama-teurs to date, Alex Thomson and the crew of Ariel have a battle on their hands if they are to prevail on the tricky 1,560-mile leg from Hong Kong to Singapore (Edward

Gorman writes). With around 500 miles left to sail for the leading boats, the generally light winds have seen Thomson, the youngest skipper in the seven-strong fleet, slip to third place behind Tim Hedges, in Chrysolite, who is leading from Barney Solars, in Mermerus. Yesterday, the identical Day

id Pedrick-designed sloops were plodding to windward in just five knots of wind as they continued their voyage across the South China Sea. in the United States, Bob

Rice, weather router for Steve Fossett and the crew of the HSR catamaran, PlayStation. has predicted that the huge multihull could travel more than 625 miles in 24 hours, given the right conditions. In the wake of PloyStotion's

new record run of 580 miles two weeks ago, Rice said: "The objective is 625 to 675 miles for PloyStation." He also suggested the transatiantic record by Jet Services V of seven days could be reduced by a day.

At the Volvo RYA National Youth Championships on Grafham Water, Jamie Smith heads the men's Laser Radial fleet after the overnight leader, Paul Griffiths, finished 29th in the first of two races, leaving him four points adrift.

SPORT IN BRIEF Chinn inspires win

E ICE HOCKEY: Nicky Chinn helped Great Britain to a vital opening victory in his side's quest to join the world elite yesterday. Chinn, the Cardiff Devils forward, scored the winning goal early in the final period for a 2-1 victory over Slovenia in Pool B of the world championships in Denmark. The result was a measure of revenge for Britain, who were beaten 5-3 by Slovenia in the corresponding event last year in what Peter Woods, the coach, described as his side's worst performance. Britain triumphed through some determined defending in front of the inspirational Stevie Lyle, the Cardiff goalkeeper letting in just one of 45 shots.

BASKETBALL: Newcastle Eagles, who have yet to reach Wembley following defeats by London Towers in each of the past two seasons, will be attempting to exact revenge tonight when they start this season's play-offs in the Telewest Arena. Under the coaching of Kevin Cadle, the Towers progressed each time 2-1. Lino Frattin, Cadle's successor, will be hard pushed to win the series a third year running. Thames Valley Tigers begin their quarter-final series at Derby Storm tomorrow, dreading a repeat of 1994 when as league champions they were subjected to a 2-0 reverse.

E CURLING: Scotland, coached by Hammy McMillan, stayed on target for a place in the finals at the world championships in New Brunswick yesterday, despite almost losing to New Zealand, who are bottom of the table. Scottish experience told however, as they took both shots at the extra end for an 8-6 victory. The Scotland women's team, who were bottom of the table, reached a new low when they were routed by Japan 2-10 after just eight ends.

RUGBY UNION: Wales are to play two international matches on their five-match tour to Argentina in May and June. Graham Henry, the Wales coach, is planning to take a playing party of 37 to South America in a bid to finalise his squad for the World Cup. Among the surprise inclusions could be Gareth Cooper, the Bath scrum half, Alix Popham, the Newport flanker, and Stephen Jones, the Llanelli utility

E TEMMS: Boris Becker, playing only his third ATP Tour event this year and heading into retirement, yesterday reached the Hong Kong Open quarter-finals. He beat Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, the No 6 seed, 6-4, 7-6. Becker, 32, was joined in the last eight by fellow Germans Nicolas Kiefer, Bernd Karbacher and Hendrik Dreekmann, who eliminated Michael Chang, the No 8 seed, 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

SWIMMING: Ian Wilson, who finished fourth in the 1,500 metres freestyle at the world short course championships in Hoog Kong on Sunday, is retiring after a career spanning 20 years. The City of Leeds swimmer said: "This is a tough decision to make. Swimming has been my life."

HOCKEY

Sheffield aim to cross over

SHEFFIELD, who finished nineteenth in the National League first division are joined by five regional champions for the inter-league playoffs at Milton Keynes, today. Peterborough Town, Fareham and Formby make up pool A, while Edgbaston, Whitchurch and Sheffield are in pool B.

By the end of play on Sunday, the teams finishing first and second in each pool will qualify for crossover matches on April 24. The winners of these matches will play in the restructured EHL second division in the 1999-2000 season.

The National League premier division also ends on Sunday. Cannock and Southgate are already assured of the top two positions, but behind them the contest for fourth is wide open_Beeston, only two points behind Canterbury, must beat Southgate on Sunday and hope that Canterbury lose to Guildford.

In the women's divisions, Jane Swinnerton-lons could make her final league appearance when she plays for Aldridge in the second leg of the play-offs for the EHL premier division at Doncaster, tomorrow.

The former England and Great Britain striker is expecting her second child in October and says that, after II successive league campaigns and the rigours of training. she may well step down at the end tif the season. As one of the all-time leading goalscorers in the league, she has every intention of steering the Midlands club in to the premiership.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL Nationwide League Second division Gifingham v Bournemouth (7.45) . . .

Third division Swarzez v Shrewsbury (7 45) UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier divisions Winskut v Chorley (7:30) FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLI-ANCE: First division: Harlispool v Port Vale (1.0). Third division: Wresham v Hallion (2.0) FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: St Patrox's Athletic v Sigo (7 45), Sharnrock v UCD (7 45), Bray v Waterlord RUGBY UNION

A International matches France v Scotland |al Bourges, 7.0) reland v Italy (at Donnybrook, 5.0)

(at Wrednern, 7 30).

London v St Helens (7.30).

France v Scotland (at Vienne, 5.0)... keland v Italy (at Ravenhill, 7.30) Wales v England (at Neath, 2.30) ... Chattenham and Gloucester Cup

Gloucester v Bedford jat Northampton, 7.45)... RUGBY LEAGUE JJB Super League

CRICKET 11.30, second day of three University matches FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Lancashre THE PARKS: Oxford University v

OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Budweiser champion-ship: Play-off, first leg: Newcastle Eagles v Lordon Towers (7 30) HOCKEY: Inter-lengue play-offs (al Mi-ton Keynas) Peterborough Town v Fare-fram (2.0), Edgiteston v Whitchurch (4.0).

Maguire magic spurs Macgeorge

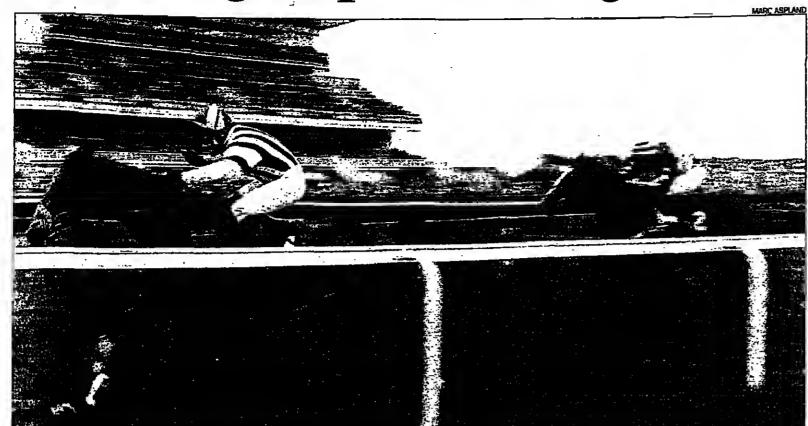
By CHRIS McGrath

AFTER Macgeorge held on to win the Martell Cup at Aintree yesterday, Adrian Maguire recalled the moment when he had looked round to see Richard Johnson, wearing black and white, driving his mount closer. "I recognised the horse and colours at once." he said. ") knew then that I had better keep my lad going." Maguire was being a little disingenuous, however, when he explained why the sight of Escartefigue was such a spur to his efforts. "I knew that the one thing he would do is stay on." he said. More pertinent to his inspired extra thrust, perhaps. was the source of his familiariiv with Escariefigue.

Losing the ride on that horse had, during a bleak midwinhelped undermine Maguire's tenure as stable jockey to David Nicholson. Eventually he freed himself from his bonds to Jackdaws Castle, and it has been marvellous to observe the liberation in his riding since. He gave Macgeorge an outstanding ride from the front, and was similarly positive when making the most of a spare ride on Papo Kharisma in the last. Richard Lee. Macgeorge's trainer, justly endorsed him as "a brilliant horseman and a brilliant tactician". . For a linrse with so much

ability, it has to be said that Escurteligue is not the most hearthreaking of losses to a jockey. Cince again he looked a hard ride, while Go Ballistic and Majadou both failed to reproduce their Cheltenham

The Escarrefigue colours were again second in the Martell Fox Hunters' Chase. where Mely Moss was outclassed by Elegant Lord — one



Macgeorge, under strong driving from Maguire, proves too strong for Escartefigue and Johnson in the Martell Cup at Aintree yesterday

McManus yesterday. They both paid a compliment to the potential champions who relegated them to a supporting role at the Festival. Elegant Lord had exhausted himself rrying to keep abreast of Castle Mane at Cheltenham, while Joe Mac, who sauntered away with the Barton & Guestier Novices' Hurdle, had toiled vainly in pursuit of Hors La Loi III, It was typical that Hors La Loi III himself should then emerge to make

of two horses to win for J. P. harder work of his own success, though he had legitimate excuses for failing to match their flair.

Elegant Lord mastered his rivals with a little more authority than he did the National fences, having wiped his nose in the grass after Becher's Brook. But Rough Quest, re-turning to the scene of his finest hour, was one of just six failers from 23 starters. He was unscathed, though Mark Bradburne hurt a shoulder. McManus feels too much

sentiment for Elegant Lord to Similar sentiments were expressed about Hors La Loi III complicate his emotions with one of his bigger bets. "I only after Joe Mac allowed Conor had a little on, just to cover the beer money." he said. "He's O'Dwyer to celebrate his 33rd birthday by cruising upsides one of the family. Enda Bolger Grecian Dart at the last and trains him just down the road. sprinting clear on the flat. The jockey believes Joe Mac to We spend many a night togethhave been ill-served by the stiff-er track at Cheltenham but er and this is a good reason for a few more." Bolger feels the horse to be in better heart this Christy Roche, his trainer. year than when he rode him said: "I was very disappointed with him at Cheltenham. He's into second 12 months ago. "But Castle Mane must be unbelievable at home but hasn't been producing it on some horse to beat him the way he did at Cheltenham." the track until today."

Hors La Loi III was unhappy making his own running in the Glenlivet Juvenile Hurdle, beat Afarad. Paul Green, who imported the horse from France, said: "He wasn't cheap - but I can't watch them from six feet under, can 1? So I might as well enjoy it

Those prepared to plan for the future were offered 8-1 by William Hill against Hors La Loi III for next year's Smurfit Champion Hurdle.

Henderson hope backed to have last laugh

By Alan Lee, racing correspondent

THE housewives, couch potatoes and sundry other once-ayear punters have yet to make their influence fell on the Martell Grand National market but the professional money is down. Bookmakers yesterday reported such significant support for Fiddling The Facts that she may now start as second favourite behind the absurdly short Double Thriller.

Mike Dillon, representing Ladbrokes, explained: "Professional backers used to avoid the National because of its risk factor but since the modification of the fences, they want to play. It is their money that is forcing down Fiddling

For Nick Henderson, trainer of Fiddling The Facts, it would not be a victory out of turn. Henderson has been trying to win the National for 21 years but has never come closer than the second place achieved by Zongalero in his first season of training.

Since then, Henderson has finished third with Classified in 1986, second again through The Tsarevich a year later and fourth with Brown Windsor in 1990. "We've knocked on the door often enough," Henderson said. "But it won't bloody open."

Headerson is convinced that Fiddling The Facts gives him one of his finest opportunities. despite not winning this season. "She is the right sort for it and she comes here pretty fresh because we've spaced out her four runs deliberately. It does need to be slow ground for her but I'm pretty sure it's not going to dry out

The mare, who will carry only 10st 3lb. completed her preparations by schooling over National-style fences in Lambourn bul Henderson revealed receipt of a worrying letter last week. "It was on offcial BHB notepaper and it in-formed me that mares are to be banned from the Grand National because they distract geldings." The date of the missive was April I and Hender son is still seeking the culprit

Suny Bay, the other great Lambourn hope, looks almost certain to be ridden by his regular partner. Graham Bradley, who is rapidly recovering from a bone-shaking fall in Ireland on Monday.

Bradley plans to ride out for Suny Bay's trainer. Simon Sherwood, this morning before taking a single ride at Aintree to prove his fitness. "I am having physio twice a day and have been doing some press-ups and lifting exercises. I'm feeling more confident by the hour," Bradley said.

Norman Williamson, who missed Ascot on Wednesday, returned at Aintree yesterday and is fit to ride General Wolfe, while Richard Dunwoody, who gave up his last two rides yesterday through dehydration, expects to be

back today. The few remaining jockey vacancies were filled yesterday, the most notable featuring Conor O'Dwyer, who was booked to ride Cyborgo for Martin Pipe. Of the four horses taken out at the 48-hour stage, Paul Nicholls' Belmont King was the most prominent. He may now be aimed at the Whitbread Gold Cup.

AINTREE

2.00 Prominent Profile

3.45 Linton Rocks 4:20 King's Road 2.35 Call Equiname 4.50 BLUEDONIX (nap) 3.10 Spendid 5.20 Island Chief (nb)

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.45 MAHLER.

GOING GOOD TO SOFT TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.00 MARTELL MERSEY NOVICES HURDLE (Grade II £17,850 2m-4f) (6 junners)

| 1911 | 1911 | 19 | 1912 | 1913 | 1914 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 1915 | 19 SETTING 4-9 Ranos, 5-1 Tonoco, 12-1 Prominent Profile, 14-1 Austales, Polar Fhefu, 40-1 Easton Gale, 1998. PROMALEE 6-11-5 C F Swan (9-4 lav) A P O'Brien (he) 17 ran

FORM ANALYSIS and company in tomorrow's Markell Heartle and should extend his otherwise many arround in hard Tomoro oldestien sequence over hinter to sever. He confirmed him with any arround in hard Tomoro looks the one for forecast purposes. His details of Beachanal (all Hantlandon) and Cray Horze (all Weitherby) make for good reading and his reverse at Sandown last month flust attempt over this hip) can be partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore. He is a grand soft space to be one for the control of the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore. He is a grand soft space to be one for the control of the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore. He is a grand soft space to be one of the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore. He is a grand soft space to be one of the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore, the is a grand soft space to be one of the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore, the is a grand soft space to be one of the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore. He is a grand soft space to be one of the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore to be partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore. He is a grand soft space to be one of the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore. He is a grand soft space of the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore to the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore to the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore to the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore to the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore to the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore to the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore to the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore to the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore to the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore to the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore to the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore to the partly attributed to him injuring his off-lore to the partly attributed to him the partly attribute

2.35 MUMM MELLING CHASE (Grade I: £50,575: 2m 4f) (6)

.01 1.1-11 CALL EQUIVAME 23 (D.6.S) (M Cobum) P Nicholis 9-11-10 ... MA Pizografia (ISB 202 044300 CHALENGER OU LIGE 23 (B.0.F.6.S) (D Johnson) M Pizo 9-11-10 ... P McCoy 133 03 -21243 DRECT ROUTE 23 (C.F.6.S) (C Honor) J Heward Johnson 8-11-10 ... M Withwrison 138 04 (P2120 MIALIGAN 23 (F.6.S) (Lath Hams) D Nicholano 9-11-10 ... A Magaine 176 3-1013 SUPER COM 46 (D.F.G.S) (B Brodes) R Lee 11-11-10 ... A Magaine 176 205 253222 DPERA HAT 41 (CD.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11-5 ... C O'Dwyer - 40 (C.F.6.S) (Mr. T Coppe) J Fowler (8e) 11-11 RETTING: 5-4 Call Economie, 3-1 Direct Roule, 7-1-1 Opera Hat, Super Com. 12-1 Muligan, Challenger Du Luc. 1998: OPERA HAT 10-11-5 C O'Dwyer (10-1) J Fowler Bret 5 ran

1996 OPERA MAT 10-11-5 C O'Dwyer (10-11 J Fowter that 5 mm

Multigan is the only foot-runner in the line-up but, aware of that. Adman Maguine is unlikely to blaze off — knowing that would play into the hands of his rivals. A sprint finish over the last three tences in the most likely scenario and the horse best equipped to deal with that might be DIRCOT ROUTE. A smooth witner over these fences last year, he was an excellent thrid to Call Equinarine (dealer 4-1) in the Queen Mother Champion Chase last month (Multigan was track in seventh) despite an interrupted preparation. He can be expected to improve for that run and is taken to turn the tables. Call Equinarine has won over this hip and will start a worthy favourite, but given the likely circumstances the givey, who probably needs everything to go his way, is worth opposing. Supez Coin and Challenger Du Luca we both specialists over this distance but the former often so follook quite good enough while the latter has to be opposed given his "after-you" approach at the finish. Opera Hat won this stay year but has tailed to recapture that form and would prefer much softer going.

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11/1 Maitre De Musique 20/1 Monyman

14/1 Santa Concerto 100/1 Sniper

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20/1 Ballyline

28/1 Red Bean

50/1 The Eens

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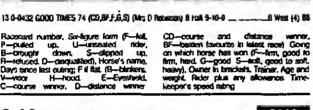
7/2 Gris D'Estruval

11/1 Linton Rocks

12/1 Linden's Lotto

14/1 Even Flow

14/1 Noyan



READING THE BACECARD

3.10 MUMM MILDMAY NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: £26,775: 3m 1f) (7 runners)

BETTING: 9-4 Majourny, 7-2 Spendid, 4-1 Hts Song, 9-2 Ever Blessad, 5-1 Village King, 14-1 others. 1998: 80SS DOYLE 6-11-7 A P McCoy (5-4 ter) M Monte (tre) 8 ran

Ever filessed is one of the tow in this field planarieed to stay this distance and, as such, must command respect. He has Bis detained and, as such, must command respect. He has shown progressive form to win at Leicester, Towceste and Bangor and deserves to take this step up in class, MARQUILII was a big desepositioned in the Aride Chase last time but the ex-french mate is best torphen that effort as she can too tree in first-time blinkers and, subsequently, was also found to be in season. She deserves another chance and her bloodless wins over 21% miles at Leicester and Kempton this farm suggest this trip will be written her compass. His Song also ran below-pair in the Aride but he appeared to have no excess and, moneover, is unproven much beyond two miles. Spendid Ropped in the Royal & SunAtionac Chase and way be feeting the effects of a busy season. Village King, by contrast, bounced back from a time-much break when detecting Gratom (rec. 14th) at Exelect less immeth and will be suited by the drying ground. King Of Sparts will need a personal best to figure while Carliste Bandiko's is Rying a bit high.

3.45 JOHN HUGHES TROPHY CHASE ISHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE (Grand National course; £22,550: 2m 6f) (20 runners)

BETTING: 5-1 Gits O'Estraval, 7-1 The Outback Way, 10-1 Lintun Rocks, Matte, Rybanu, 12-1 Maltir De Musique, Linden's Lotto 14-1 Noyan, Wayward King, Even Flow, Santa Concerto, 15-1 others, 1998, CYFOR MALTA 5-11-1 A P McCoy (7-2 try) M Ploe 22 rain

Babytine not the race of its life in this context last year when the race of its life in this context last year when the race of its life in this context last year when the race of its life in this context last year when the race of the way to the race of the r

4.20 BELLE EPOQUE SEFTON NOVICES HURDLE (Grade I: £23,800: 3m 110yd) (16 runners)

1998: UNSERKABLE BOXER 9-11-4 A P McCoy (10-11 try) M Pipe 12 ran Who's ROAD, a very useful turner have lest season when winning at this meeting and at the Punchestown Festival, has proved well suited by a test of stamma since making the transition to hardling and was stoying on again on the run-in when 13I fourth of 18 to Barton in the SunAhanace Huidle (2m 5i) at Chetanham. Today's longer hip should ad his cause. Shannon Gale aposals as the main threat. He went clock to justifying strong market support when 71-Id fourth of 24 to generous in the Status Casino Hendicap (3m 21) and is sure to be staying on at the finish. Ballysiayos. 161-Id lifth of 23 to Katanno in the Trumph Huidle, is one for whom the hip could pose a groblem, while Lord Noela, Michattle, Musical Stang, Picket Place, Riccardo, Santabless and Storm Of Gold have all until to prome their affectionness must have miles. Temperatures 1 and Noela Noela and the finish status when the could be seen and the status of the could be seen and the status of the sta have all yet to prove their effectiveness over three miles. Tempestuous Lady kept on gamely whe beating Damp Course 21 at Sandown (2m 6I) in February and could not into a place.

BETTING: 5-2 Ning's Road. 6-1 Sterston Galo. 7-1 Lord Noelle, 8-1 Tempestatus Lady, 10-1 Babyscyos. 12-1 Door To Door, Ricado Storm Of Gold. 14-1 gitters.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS Wins Ross Wins Rrss F Easterty
F Easterty
Honord Johns
D Michologo
Baldung
M Pipe
N Twiston-David
P Nicholis
P Hobbs
M's M Revoley
M Hammond A McCay
A Bottom
R Thomas
P Carberry
B Johnson
C F Swan
C Llewellyo
C O'Dwyte
N Walagneen
G Branfay 31.8 25.0 22.2 18.8 17.4 16.1 15.8 14.0 13.2

4.50 ODDRINS HANDICAP HURDLE (£14,746; 2m 4f) (16 (umers)

BETTIME: 8-1 Abbyroseni, 13-2 Jungit, 7-1 Corapour, Blowing West, 8-1 Sader's Resist, 10-1 Outset, Temperaturus Lady, 12-1 Executive Decision, Dana Point, Serenus, 14-1 Bluestanis, 16-1 Bucakins, 20-1 others. 1998: NHAYRAWAN 6-11-1 F M Berry (4-1) C Roche (he) B ran

Blowing What adds a buch of class at the head of the hardrap and his presence results in seven of the 16-shand line up carrying more than their long-transform weights. A hard-to-form second to Go informal at Haydock (2m) prior to being brought down at the lifth in the Champion Hudde, Blowing Wind is interesting new steeping up in the and appears to hold stronger claims than his stablemate, Rainbow Frontier. However, both could change to prevent Pol-AYRAWANI following up his victory of last year, Christy Roche's seven-year-old confirmed invested a horse for the big occasions when fariding the Coral Cup at Deletentern (2m 5) on his latest Start. a rouse for one up occasions when serving one constructed at Determining 13th 50) of his littless sent healting Mithersheld a head with Densequer (3th better only another 5t behald in hourth. Blackdoner severall, and Reinbow Fromer 24th. Chelhenbarn form is also represented by Sadler's Realm. Secretive Decision, Buddy Marvell and Secretus, learth, bith and 10th respectively to 5th Tahout in the County Hurtile (2m 11), Of the quartet, only Sadler's Realm is proven over loads is tonger they. Jungit, impressive in beating Polar Right 18th at Utboster (2m 4f), makes most appeal of the remainder.

5.20 PERRIER JOUET HANDICAP CHASE (£10,582: 3m 1f) (8 numbers)

Lang handicap: Royal Event 9-10.

SETTING: 5-2 Island Crist. 7-2 Clinton, Edehmiss Du Moulin, 7-1 King Wah Eloxy, Storm Camage, 10-1 The Land Agent, 13-1 Astronti Boy, 16-1 Royal Event.

1898: BLUE CHARIM 6-10-0 Mr M Bradburre (8-1) Mrs S Bradburne 6 ram

An interesting finale in which SSLAND CRIEF (rap) makes a fair amount of appeal. He less returned from injury better than on 18 to Bettys Boy in the William Hift Handicap (3m 10) at Chetterham, a last-kence blunder possably cooking but the race. That form received a boost yesterday when the fourth, Macquerge, won the Martel Cop, and a 3th higher start to island Chief here appears very lair. Edelweis Du Moulin, running hard in greterence to the John Hughes Ripphy, made an encouraging debut for new convections when Beisham 28 than to Stormytalmeather to the Cathean Chair (2m 51) at Chetterham. Further improvement could be forthcoming but this hip could stretch his stamma and a begger threat to the selection may be proced by Carrott. Kim Bailery's change softeed the mistorium of being brought down with a circuit to go when fancied for the Kim Mart at Chetterham to the had previously shown himself to be on the upgrade with back-to-back which in novice company. Storm Damage had The Land Agent (2th worse oil) on any place and 344 bethird when Instining 281 third to in The Blood at Chessister (2th Starte Agent (2th worse oil) on the proposition of the similar of or inching after the starter of the some all of his ministry on night-handed tracks. Astwell Boy is not a strong linisher but has leiken his chances this strangers the stranger of the similar of the stranger of the s



See racecards for detailed going

3/2 with 15te

Aintree, 4.505m

TOMORROW'S BIG RACE

3.45 MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL CHASE (£245,588; 4m 4l) (32 runners)



YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

1988: EARTH SUMBIT 10-10-5 C Liewellyn (7-1 lav) N Tension-Dawes 37 ran

Aintree Going: good to soft

Going: good to soft 2.00 gm 110vd hdfel 1, JOE MAC (C O'Dwyer, 8-4 lav), 2, Greckin Dert (M A Fragereld, 13-2), 3, Piped Alsoard (A P McCoy, 11-1) ALSO RAN: 11-2 Lord Lamb, 15-2 Arctic Fancy (Sth.) 9 Besman, 40 Heart (4th, 50 Briffan) Star, 66 Sikander A Azem (6th) 9 ran: 41, 314, St, St, 3-9 C Poche at Curraph, Co Kildere: Tote, E2 10, E1 20, E1 20, E2 20, DE: £5 50, CSF £8 50 2.35 (2m) if th) 1, MACGEORGE (A Maguire, 11-1), 2, Escartefigue (R Johnson, 9-4); 3, Dr. Leurat R Durwoody, (2-1) ALSO RAN: 13-8 law Magadou (Shi), 3 Go Sahastic (4th) 5-ran, 1-4, 11, 1-9, 2-4, R Lee at Presisegne Tote: 510 20; 52 20, 51 60 DF: 59.50 CSF, 532 78

ur: 2x-50 CSF, E52 78
2.10 (2m ch) 1, FLAGSHIP UBERALLES
1/1 Tezand, 5-2 (Hav. Timelkeeper's top resing), 2, Grinnes IC O'Deyer, 8-11, 3, Davim Lueder IT J Murphy, 5-2 (Hav) ALSO RAN
100-30 Tresor De Ma (5th), 11 Cition Beat
(4th), 33 Circus Star (6th), 65 Damaz, 7 ran
9, hd, 5, 151, 151 P Nicholls at Sheplen Male
1, Total C3 20: £1 90, £2 40 DF; £13 80
CSF £14 25

CSF £14.25
3.45 (2m 61 ch) 1. ELEGANT LORD (Mr P Fonton, 7-4 km), 2. Melly Moss (Mr A Dempsey, 11-2), 3. Kilbreet (Mr R Fornstal, 20-11 ALSO RAN 7-1 Rough Quest, 9 Formal Invitation, (4 Whate of A Ninght), 16 Gale To, 20 Charmer's Well, (block pith), 25 Mr Boston (shi), 33 Cord Master (GH), Desert Calm, free Crazy Bishop, 50 Pontoon Brone, Young Nimmod, (100 Apple John, Aunflar, 83-bb Baggins, Fiscal Policy, Golden Savanneth, Sanda of Gold, Tom's Germin Star, Walls Court, 23 ran, NR Around The Hom, 7, 13, 21, 161, 174 Enda Bolger at Ireland, 10te £2,90, £1,50, £2,80, £4,20 CP £3,30 CSF £7,99
4.20 CPm 110xd britet 1. HORS, 1.4 A CM III.

4.20 (2m 110yd hdlet 1. HORS LA LOI III 21 50 £1.10, £1 90 DF, £2 50 ČSF; £4 £2 4.50 (2m 4d ch) 1, ROYAL, PREDICA (A P McCoy, 6-7), 2, Seminari Cross (R Mc-Grein, 8-1); 3, Mannesis (A Dotban, 20-11 ALSO RAN 5-1 sav Foundry, Lane (4m), 13-2 Fourth in Line (5th), 7 Sad Mad Bad, 8 Society Biel (6th), 12 Heavers Above, Roy-al Toast, Strong Tet, 25 Forrest Tribe, Nosam, 50 Charlie Foundrol 13 ran NFP Bal-lad Ministral, Dark Stranger 9, 1-4, 1-4, 1-8, 19, M Pipe at Wellington Tota (9 77), 53 00, £2 20 £4 20 DF £2 46 0 CSF £45 48 Th-cast 19322 80

cast: 5822-80
5.20 (3m 110yd hdiej 1, PAPO KHARIS-MA IA Majoure, 12-1), 2, Derapour IC F Swan, 4-1 lav, 3, Nocksty ID Gallogher, 16-11 ALSO RAN 9-2 Teachtal, 5 Lady, Cricket (4th), 7 Meny Masquerack, 15-2 Wiskey Wonder, 10 Appre Parther, Ginger Fox, 12 Pharanear 15th, 50 Chuchtjown Glen, Jazz Track, 100 E-atted (6th), 200 Otter River, 14 mn, 147 Just Nip 1, 14, 2%, 13, 18, 101 P Hobbs at Minehead Tote C13-90, 53 00 C2-10, C5 00 DF, C31-20 Tote Trifecta, 23,051-90 CSF, 556-81 Tincast, C729-82 Jeckpot: \$2,236.40. ackpot: £3,236,40.

Placepot: £81.40. Quadpot: £23.30. Taunton

Going: good to firm, firm in places George good to mm, ann an paces 2.25 (3m 110yd hide) 1. Greenside Chatt (f. Aspeit, 33-1); 2. Smuggler's Pont (14-1); 3. Kares's Typhoon (14-1). The Minder (44m) 2-1 law 15 ran MF Evonived Shi Id. 114 L Dace Tote 256 60: 28 60; 24.40, 22.50 DF 5362 20 CSF (24.10 P. Tincal; 26.07 4.97 CSF (25.00 P. Linder Shi I. Mich. Cells 25 United Shi III Shi III Shi I. 2352 20 CSh E431 07 Ingast, £6,074 97 2.55 (3m 110/d ch) 1. High Gate (P Hide, 6-1); 2, Run For Cover (11-1); 3, Rosencranz 17-29 North Kalsemy 9-4 tay 10 ran NR Sol Music 98, 3, P Nicholfs Tore £5,20, £2,30, £1 60, £1,50 DF £26 60 CSh £653 29 2.30 (2m 11 hote) 1, Doublet (R Groene, 8-1); 2, Rad (5-1); 3, Gurdo (4-1) The Gene Gene (8th) 11-8 (av. 12 ran NR, Barren Lands, Party Romanos 141 81, M Fipe Tote 57-40, £1-50, £2.00, £1-90 DF £7-70 CSF; £32-47

4.05 (2m 1) hole) 1, Here's To Howle (5 Wyrne, 11-2) 2, Euero Real IS-11 2, Classo Masquerade IS-1) Mass Fara 4-5 law 7 ran NR, Candle Smoke, Convelt Cossact Dare, Duel Island, I Wish You Love, Rise Above, Under The Thumb 19, 111 M 865-ley Tole £4.50, £1.50 £2.20 DF £14.60 CSF, £43.82

CSF, £43 B2
4.40 (37) ch 1 1, Country Store (3 Greene
7-4 (av) 2, Juliana (5-2), 3, Vicoca (8-1) 6
ran NR, Abavard, Durmicks View Garmen,
Phylateke, Wishing Wilson 1/4, 180 M Ppe
Tole £1.90, £1.10, £2.00 DF £3.10 CSF
55.10 (38) ch 1, Buzz O'The Crowd (M R
Woollacott, 9-2), 2, Missler Herairo (4-1), 2,
Sili, in Business (5-2 (av) 7) (an NR Bets
Wood, King Tonus, Tandem 1/4, 2 Miss F
Walker, Tole £9.20, £2.70, £3.00 DF
£12.30 CSF £20.08
5.40 (2m, 1) hole) 1, Zine Laste (L. Corosta).

£12.30 CSF £20.09
5.40 (2m II holle) 1, Zime Lane (L Corcuran.
12-11 2. Spock And Span (events fav.) 3, Ething (16-1) 7 ran MF Alfanic Mar, Oragon King, Nine O Three Hd, 141 fan Williams Tole £15.70, £2.40, £1.40 DF £11.50 CSF £22.52. Tiocast £128.77. Piscepot: £5,428.20. Quadoot: £62.40.

Leicester

Goting: good 2.15 I im Bot) 1, Topatori IS Drowne, 9-2 Rob Wright's napp; 2, Galy Mil (11-4 lat) 3, Scene (15-2) 14 I an I i i i 2-4 M Torro-bris Tole £4 80° £100, £2 90, £24 0 V £9 10 ISF £15 02, Tricast £97 92 2.45 [53 19ky 1], Buthanalddd (6 Hmd, 8-1) 2 Emma Peel II (0-1), 3 Kaamen (7-1), 6un-ro Humer 18th (3-1 lat 9 Pan, 1 i i), 5h hd J Gosden Tole £13 50 £2 80, £2 60, £3 10 DF £41 60 CSF £76 86 3.20 [51 18ky 1] Eddlen Syrup IJ Quint. Dir 4 1 60 CSF 578 85 3.20 [SI 218vd) | Golden Syrup IJ Curn. 14-1), 2. Spir The Aces [50-1] 3 Lady Carbins 9-11 Paul Carbins 9-11 Paul Carbins 9-11 Paul Carbins 1-14 P Howlang Tote 516 90 C470 528 50 52 30 DF 5967 90 CSF 5575.25 12.30 Dr 5967 90 (CSF 5575.25 3.55 (51.20d), Pheistry n. Fallon, 9-1; 2 Bodd State (9-2) 3. Charming Lotte (20-1) Berlieley Dido 7-2 lav 13 ran. Hd. 14 R Johnson Houghton Tote: 28 (b), 52 (0 C1 90, 55 60 DF 540 40 CSF 542 66 A 50, to but UP 540.40 CSF 542.66 4.30 (1m 3/783yd) 1, Toto Ceelo (M 148; 6.4 lavi. 2, Man of Courage (5-2; 3, Hegh of Fantasy (7-2) 10 ran 114, 3/4 6 His for 52.70 £1 10, £1.60, £1.90 OF £3.16 CSF £4.81 CSF E4 81 5.00 (1m 11 218)(d) 1, Algumnata (G Hnd. 15-8), 2, Entertamer (7-4 tay), 3, Ranstach (10-11 13 ran NR Aquatic King, 2-9, shid 3) Gosden Tote (52.20 %) 10, £1.90, £2.80 DF: £2.10 CSF £4.72

DF: £2 10 CSF: £4.72
5.30 (1m 1/216yd) 1, Sure Dencer IJ Fortune, 5-4 (av) 2, The Exhibition For [40-1], Blackcloth (13-2), 13 (av) 3, 29 9 Corroller For CSF 70 CSF 563 (2)
6.00 (7/19yd) (, Kata Surnice (J Forning 14-1), 2, Great News (7-1), 3, Turnoleweed Hero (7-1), 4, Oudamuteons (33-1) Westmans Weight 9-2 fav 30 ran. 194, 194 C Smith 10th, 210, 23, 49, 24, 30, 25.30
65.10 DF: £85.20 CSF: £107.95 Total Plantage (21) (21)

Piecepot: £418.60. Quadpot: £53.00.



المكذا من الاصل

Flagship Uberalles sets sail to keep Nicholls on course for title glory

By Alan Lee, racing correspondent

CHELTENHAM'S champions are frequently fallible when asked to peak again on the distinctly different terrain of Aintree but Flagship Uberalles was supremely impressive. yesterday, in confirming his stature as the leading two-mile novice chaser, it was an event that Paul Nicholls, his trainer, observed at a distance of 200 miles.

These are to be the defining three days in Nicholls' bid to dethrone Martin Pipe as champion trainer and if spending the first of them at his local Taunton meeting was a dem-onstration of confidence, his Arkle Chase winner jusofied it in full. The five-year-old stretched easily away from six opponents to win the Sandeman Maghull Novices Chase

Pipe had shrunk his deficit in the otle race by more than £30,000 with a treble at Ascot on Wednesday and had serious prospects of further progress early yesterday. As it ranspired, he had to wait for Hors La Loi III to win the fifth race, and by then Nicholls had hanked another £32,725.

The comprehensive defeat of Majadou, in the Martell Cup, was followed by another disappointing run for Pipe by Tresor De Mai, runner-up in the Arkle but beaten out of

Carl Evans: 3.20 Hiltonstown Lass.

GOING, GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES)

2.10 JOHN WADE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

7-2 The Grey Bay, 5-1 Carol Again, 6-1 Selton Blake, 7-1 Harlmess Wannor, 10 Maremma, Real Fire, 12-1 Dauphur Bieu, Leafy Grove, Ramylar, 14-1 others.

4 903 KARISMA 8 (T) D Smith 8-11-10 B Storey
2 D65 TEME VALLEY 20 Mar. A Swindows 5-11-5 Supplie
3 5826 CURTAINSATICHOPPIELL 20 (RE) I Easterby 5-11-4 R Madgridt
6 551 BM MASSRAR 12 (B.O., SI Mar. M Revicly, 5-11-2 M Massignos (S)
5 P5-4 N GOOD FAITH 18 (D.F) R Barr 7-10-13 M Smith
6 8001 EFBNY 11 (F.S.) J L Curren 10-10-13 Skely (S)
7 G440 SALINSER 99 (CD. G.S.) F Marcagh 11-10-13 A S Smith
8 4041 ONE STOP 18 (S) M Barnes 6-10-8 S Taylor

5-1 Curtainsalchopeell, 7-2 One Stop. 4-1 Errny, 5-1 Ibn Mastrati, 7-1 others.

3.20 STANLEY THOMPSON MEMORIAL HUNTERS

1 4621 DESE MARSHALL 4P (S) A Pennock 11-11-12
Nor A Pennock (7)
2 2-45 DROMHANA 20P (F.G.S) Mrs R Wormall 9-11-12
3 2-12 HILTONSTOWN LASS 24 (C.G.S) 1 Warred 9-11-12
Mr R Westford (7)
4 234P MURLINGAR 13P (F) Mrs S Bell 10-11-12
Mr Matter (7)
5 P4U4 SERGEART MULLARKEY 12P (B.T.S) John Can 11-11-12
Mr L Moscath (7)
6 12P- SYD GREEN 319 (F.G.S) A Walker (11-11-12 J.W S Walker (7)
7 FP24 THE MINISTER 13P (F) Mrs 1 Juckson 10-11-12
Mrs I Jackson (7)

9 P-P1 POWDER PRUM 6P (T.S) Mis J Ban 8-11-7 ... Mr N F Smith (5)

BUNKERED FIRST TIME: Aintree: 3.10 Carliste Bandi-

ROB WRIGHT

4.05 Ellway Prince

4.40 Kings Arrow

5.10 Mister Tricky

4-5 Hibonstown Lass, 6-1 Daise Marchall, Powder Prim, 10-1 others.

lo's Sedgefield: 3.55 Owens Quest

Our Newmarket Correspondent 2.20 KtRSCH (nap). 4.40 Kings Arrow

DRAW 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

/2-7-0: £3,022: 5t) (7 runners)

2.20 EBF TANDRIDGE MAIDEN STAKES

2.20 Direct Reaction

3.30 Son Of Snurge

2.55 Little Italy

GOING, STANDARD

2.45 JOHN JOYCE HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,358 2m 11) (8)

CHASE (£1,590: 3m 3f) (8)

Self Contraction

(OUALIFIER) (£2,164: 2m 5t 110yd) (16 runners)

2.10 Saucy Nun

2.45 Teme Valley

3.20 Mullingar

SEDCETED

3.55 Owens Quest

4.30 Meldrum Park

5.00 The Gamboller

5.30 Andy's Lad

sight by his old rival here as Grimes and Dawn Leader led the unavailing pursuit of the 5-2 joint favourite.

Joe Tizzard, the 19-year-old jockey in whom Nicholls exhibits such faith, continues to repay him generously. There are days, he admits, when it is hard to absorb that he is riding high-profile winners instead of milking the cows on the family dairy farm. The stadstics, however, show that this was his 71st of the season, leaving him only three short of the conditional jockey's record held by Tony McCoy.

Nicholls believes Tizzard will succeed McCoy as champion, so long as he can control the weight on his 6ft frame. For now, though, the priorities of both men are with Double Thriller, the Grand National favourite.

Emphatically though Flagship Uberalles won, Tizzard's handling of him was composed and positive. Always travelling comfortably behind the two leaders, jumping fast and neatly, Flagship Uberalles quickened decisively off the final bend and kept up a relentless gallop to the line.

"That was really impressive," Tizzard said. "The couple of horses in front really set the race up for me, it was just a question of when I took it up. I think he has improved again since Cheltenham and he will take a lot of beating next year." Trainers know better than

to worry prematurely about an embarrassment of riches in any department but Flagship Uberalles will theoretically be competing for the mature twomilers' championship now held by Nicholls Call Equiname. This hugely impressive winner of the Queen Mother Champion Chase reappears today in the Mumm Melling Chase, the race that will be darkly remembered for featuring the death of One Man a year ago.
The significance of Call

Equiname running here is threefold. It means his china legs have survived their Cheltenham exertions well, it offers Nicholls an outstanding opportunity to pocket another rich prize, and it is over half-amile farther than his specialist distance.

Nicholls believes it will suit him, and he goes further. "I read somewhere that this horse could certainly never win a Gold Cup. I thought that was a big statement. I have the King George in mind for him next season and I do think he could be a Gold Cup horse the following year. He'll win another Champion Chase first, though."



MOTOR RACING: HOME-TOWN DRIVER SEEKS FIRST CAREER VICTORY IN BRAZILIAN GRAND PRIX

After six seasons in Formula One and 98 grands prix, Barrichello finally has a car that can bring him the victory he craves

Barrichello turns the corner

in a hurry, between planes, yet still desperate to make sure he does not let anyone down. The mobile phone is red hot as he dashes from Heathrow to his British outpost in Cambridge to pack, before going back to the airport for a plane home to Brazil.

This is a man devoted to his family back in São Paulo and any chance to get home is grabbed with both hands. He says he needs the equilibrium of his wife, Silvane, and family life to balance the occasional insanity of Formula One, a madness that almost broke

his fledgeling career. Barrichello seems a fixture in Formula One, with six seasons behind him and preparing to race this weekend in his 99th grand prix in front of his adoring home crowd, yet he is only 26 and is still to reach his

prime as a driver. That much was underlined in Melbourne, in the first race of this new season when, at last, he was piloting a Stewart Ford to reward his rich ability. A drive of determination and skill was overshadowed by Eddie Irvine's victory for rari, but pitlane ob noted that Barrichello was the fastest man on the track for much of the race. If he had not had to start in last posicion from the pitlane, after his car caught fire on the grid, and then serve a penalty, maybe

that first victory would have put Ferrari noses out of joint. There would be no more popular winner, for Barrichel-lo is one of the most pleasant personalities in motor racing always cheerful, polite and willing to help. Even as be dashes for his plane, he remembers we are to meet and calls later to make sure

we don't miss each other. "Home is important to me." he said. 'Testing was cancelled so I can get to Brazil early. It will be a time to recharge the batteries and think about the race. So much is expected of me. and I want to do well for the Brazilian fans."

It was partly that burden of

Kevin Eason believes the Brazilian driver is ready to fulfil his potential

expectation that almost broke him: His family home overlooks the tnterlagos circuit and he had dived under the fence as a boy to watch races. His speed as a youthful kart driver took him on his way to follow the great Ayrton Senna in the rich lineage of Brazil-

ians in Formula One. When he entered Formula One in 1993 with Jordan, Senna nurtured his countryman. Little over a year later, Senna was dead. Barrichello had lost his mentor and ally, and also found that his nation expected him to replicate Senna's success, even though he had only

been in the sport for a year. The next 18 months were among the worst in his life as the results failed to materialise."It was a terrible time. People forgot how young I was. In my second year, I was sixth in the world championship but then the sky fell on my head. Looking back, it taught me a lot, but at the time I felt I was falling apart."

Two things saved Barrichello: the support of his family and Jackie Stewart. The foundation of the new Stewart Ford team gave Barrichello a chance to start afresh, and Stewart, himself a three-times world champion, believed Barrichello had all the qualities for success. That belief was justified when, sensationally, the Brazilian took second place at Monaco in only the fourth race for the team.

Stewart said: "Rubens is a wonderful talent and he is such a nice man, too. He has it all to be a champion, but we need to provide him with a car

that will win championships." Which has been Barrichello's problem, because it was downhill all the way after Monaco. Last year was dreadful for Barrichello and Stewart Ford as the team, lumbered with a temperamental car, struggled. In 16 races, Barrichello failed to finish ten times.

Out of the carnage, though, has come a revival. The new Stewart Ford appears capable of blasting every rival off the track, save for the McLarens. Formula One has been riveted by Barrichello's test times and be is revelling in the prospect of a maiden victory.

"In the bad days I had to ask myself what I was doing." he said. 'The answer was that 1 was doing something 1 loved, so 1 have forgotten all of the bad things to concentrate on enjoying my driving. But there is no way I am going to stay in Formula Ooe without winning. It is going to come, I have to be patient."

LINKS TELEVISION: ITV, IOMOTOW, 4.30pm, tive coverage of qualifying. Sunday, 5.30pm, live race coverage.

BY RAYMOND KEENE

CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Over the Easter Weekend an

imaginative tournament was held at Southend, which re-

vived the knockout format

which was the model for the in-

augural international tourna-ment in London, 1851. With a 2,000 first prize at stake, grand-

masters James Plaskett and Bogdan Lalic agreed to share top honours after a 1-1 oe in

the final. Other prominent competiors were Tony Miles, Jon Speelman, Murray Chan-

dler, Chris Ward and John

Emms. Here are two games

Ruy Lopez

dxc6 Nd7

0-0

Bd6 Qe7

After 17 ... fxe5 18 fxe5 Bxe5 19 Rxe5 Qxe5 20 Rf8+ wins the

Modern Defence

d5

Black resigns

by the co-winner. White James Plaskett

Black: Malcolm Pein

Redbus Knockout 1999

Bb5 Ba4

d4

black queen.

d4

h3

7 Nf3 8 Nxf6+

Nxe4

Nc3

White: James Plaskett

Black: Colin McNab Redbus Knockout 1999

14 Oe3

Southend

Irvine put in his place by Ferrari

FROM KEVIN EASON IN SÃO PAULO

FORMULA One's world championship leader yesterday faced up to the reality of his quest for victory at the Brazilian Grand Prix on Sunday. Eddie Irvine admitted that he would not be alllowed to win by overtaking Michael Schumacher, his team-mate. "I would be sacked on the spot," Irvine said. "It would be a breach of contract so it would be quite right."

That might seem a bleak assessment of his prospects after the Ulsterman's maiden victory in the first race of this season in Australia, but Irvine believes Ferrari's mission to win the world championship with Schumacher has turned to near obsession and could not only be achieved at his expense. He also believes it could become a dangerous flaw in the banle against the potentially powerful McLa-rens of Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard.

"I will still have to give way even if I am leading and Michael is behind me," he said, "Ferrari are only interested in winning the champion-ship with Michael. If they don't this year, that will be seen as a failure, even if I win five races. Making Michael champion is the only target for Ferrari and that is a big problem. McLaren don't have that aim; they just want to win races. That puts a lot of pressure on Ferrari."

Irvine's contractual deal with Ferrari, in exchange for E3 million a year, means he cannot overtake his German team-mate, no matter how tempring that might be, and he must get out of the way if Schumacher has a chance of victory. Even after the victory in Australia, Ferrari is unbend-ing on this fundamental point of principle and Jean Todi. the team manager, made it clear yesterday that answering questions on the subject was

now a "pain in the backside". The Ferraris are expected to be closer to the McLarens around the Interlagos circuit. but a three-way scrap between Hakkinen. Coulthard and Schumacher might allow Irvine to make headway.

Nd7 Nb6 Be6 Nc8

Nd6 Qa5 Rad8 h5

hxg4 b5 Bxe5 Nc4 Rd7

Rod4 Qd2 bxc4

Qd4+ Qd2+

0g1+

Qd4+ Qd2+

Black resigns

KEENE on CHESS

10

'Rubens has all the gifts to be a Formula One champion'

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN. BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 51 -Opening leads

After a long look at bidding we are moving on to the play of the cards, but we will start with defence. On average you will defend on half the deals; you will be declarer on only a quarter. If you are going to enjoy bridge to the full, it is vital that you take an interest in defence. If you and your partner can exchange information about each other's hand you will soon find it easy to defend accurately. It all starts with the opening

We considered opening leads in some early Minibridge lessons, where we had the advantage of seeing dummy before making the opening lead. In bridge proper we don't have this help, so we have to work out how much information is at our disposal to select the best possible opening lead for us in defence. You may find it helpful in developing this skill to discipline yourself to thinking: (1) which suit should 1 lead? then (2) which card from that suit?

If you hold AKQJx or KQJI0x of a suit, it is usually right to

start off with it more or less whatever it is and whatever the sequence. This does not happen often, however. More frequently you hold a motley collection of minor honours and need to choose a lead. If partner has hid a suit, it is usually a good idea to lead it.

Even if it is the wrong lead, it will keep him happy.

If no one has bid any suits (e.g. INT - 3NT), fourth highest of your longest and strongest is as good a rule as any [see Lesson 17). If the enemy has bid some suits, this can be a great help.

You will be leading through dummy's cards to your partner, with declarer playing last. So, while it is often a good idea to lead dummy's suit (lead through strength), you want to avoid leading a suit declarer has bid. It often works well to lead declarer's shortest suit, particularly when you think partner has length and strength there.

18 Pass 2 H Pass 3 C Pass All Pass 3 NT You would certainly not lead hearts. Dummy is likely to have

five spades and four clubs, making the latter more attractive most of the time. However, if you have, say, a small doubleton in spades, a lead of that suit (declarer's likely shortage) could work very well. Declarer will surely have a diamond stopper but will probably have fewer than four cards in the suit (he didn't rebid Two Diamonds over One Spade). Generally, choose a diamond or a club. Look at the texture of these suils in your hand and make your final decision.

You can send me your queries,

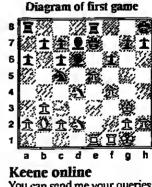
direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

contains 240 puzzles from Raymond Reene's daily column and is available from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

How did White demolish the flimsy fortifications protecting the black king?



puzzles, problems and games

Times book The Times Winning Moves 2

White to play. This position is from the game Chapman — Chambers. Australia 1999.

Solution on page 49



4-5 Yellow Robbion, 7-2 Son Ol Smarge, 9-2 No Mercy, 13-2 Saints. COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSES 7 Spring 12 seming both 31 tunies 35 38, J Beny 29 from 141, 20 34, B Hills 15 non 79 20 54, M 4 Specific. 3 from 17 17.65 143, 20 Pengli 5 from 29 17 25, M Springhad, 7 from 41, 17 19, M Springhad, 7 from 41, 1007575 N. Fistan, 27 connection 103 (055, 36.2% J. Wester, 70 kom 3007575 N. Fistan, 27 connection 103 (055, 36.2% J. Wester, 70 kom 302, 01.0% D. Hostand, 40 kom 155, 06.5%, O. Michosom, 30 kom 170, 17 by R. Cochrane, 55 kom 351, 16.1%, 88 Hills, 9 hom 56, 16.1%. 2 0340 ROYAL MOUNTBROWNE 24 (T.D.G.S) Mics M Routland 11-11-12
3 31F- JURGE BOX BILLY 329 (CD.F.G) Mrs. J Brown 11-10-11 B Ferders
4 2025 TAITS CLOCK 38 (D.F.S.) F Mappy 10-10-8. JM J McNamura (5)
5 2322 THE TOASTER 192 (CD.F.G.S) Miss K Milligen 12-10-7
R McGrath

3.55 REG AND RIDLEY LAMB MEMORIAL

1 25UP BRIGHTER SHADE 20 (F.G.S) Mrs M Reveley 9-12-0 ... P New 2 0340 ROYAL MOUNTBROWNE 24 (T.D.G.S) Mrs M Royaland 11-11-12

HANDICAP CHASE (£4,029: 2m 5f) (10)

9 -44F KILDRUMMY CASTLE 54P (T.C.F.G) J FioCeraid 7-10-6 G Let 10 -0PO JOE JAGGER 22 (6) M Hammond 8-10-9 __MY R Fortistal (5) 3-1 Brighter Sharle, 7-2 lats Clock, 4-1 Parab, 11-2 Owens Osect, 8-1 The loaster, 10-1 Royal Mounthrowne, 12-1 iclidruswith Cacille, 14-1 others

4.30 RACING CHANNEL AVAILABLE DN COMCAST TEESSEDE NOVICES CHASE (£3,925: 2m 110yd) (8)

10-11 Bainburgh Boy, 7-4 Arabects, 5-1 Joe Shaw, 20-1 others.

5.00 RACING CHANNEL AVAILABLE ON TELE WEST NOVICES HURBLE (Div I: £2,023: 2m 1f) (10)

1 1215 ES 60 38 (8F.G.S) A Benning 6-11-12 H Bestiman (3)
2 P731 JARNAB 24 (f.CD.S) O Smith 8-11-5 B Sizery
3 0434 JOLLY MINSTER SZ (8F) Mrs M Rocky 5-11-0 M H Happhinn (5)
4 00U TEXAB 6 M Benne: 5-11-0 S Trylor
5 0-P6 WRANGEL 39 J FlexGraid 5-11-0 P Nivers
8 00-0 HONEY SPICE 39 J Diver 7-10-9 E Callagram
7 0303 LINBECKY 11 E W Tort 5-10-9 K Johnson
8 4970 RAGISSA 20 F Storey 8-10-9 K Johnson
9 00 ELGGANT FAM 101 (f) W Storey 4-10-8 R McGraid
10 GP TRE GAMBOULER 120 M Soversty 4-10-8 A S Somb 7-4 July Marster, 9-4 Jarach, 11-4 Es Go, 8-1 Linberty, 10-1 Wicargel, 33-1 others

5.30 RACING CHANNEL AVAILABLE ON TELE WEST NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1): £2,023: 2m 10) (10)

1 0012 ANDY'S LAD 104 (S) F Marphy 7-11-6. Mr J P Molhemers (S)
2 2300 UNKON TOWN 20 (D.6) V Thompson 5-11-6. Mr M Thompson
3 0-00 LORD OF THE LAND 128 Mrs. C Saye 6-11-0. L Cooper (7)
4 MOVING ARROW 32F Mrs. M Providy 8-11-0. P Novid
5 0-00 OTTERBURN LAD 118 Mrs. J Brown 6-11-0. S Fersion
6 -900 DUKKY DAITHE 65 Univer 5-10-9. B Sorrey
7 0 ACADEMY 38 A Turnetl 4-10-8. S C Les
8 PS60 SMALET 10 (T) E W Town 4-10-8. R McGrath
10 POP THE ACCOUNT ANT 6 (T) Mrs. K Lamb 4-10-8. J Burke 4-5 Andy's Lad, 7-4 Moving Arrow, 12-1 Servet, 16-1 Academy, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAMERS: P Eccles, 4 witners from 12 junners, 33.2%, Mc M Reveley, 53 hom 218, 24.3%; J FitzGerald, 10 from 42, 23.8%; Mrs A Swinbard, 7 hom 32, 21.9%; D Smith, 15 from 69, 21.7%, F Murphy, 7 hom 42, 16.7% JOCKEYS P Alven, 38 wenners from 153 rutes, 24.8%; E Historief, B from 34, 23.5%; G Lee, 17 horn 67, 19.5%, M H Neughton, 4 horn 23, 17.4%, J Supple 12 from 72, 16.7%, E Callaghan, 11 from 71, 15.3%

4.05 NIGEL KENT-LEMON MEMORIAL HANDICAP LINGFIELD PARK

(£3,606: 6f) (10) 7.2 Acid 1est, 4-1 Sotonian, 11-2 Malita, Aliga: 8-1 Spender, Marengo Time To Fly, 12-1 others

4.40 MALCOLM (MICK) GILLARD 'HAPPY SOTH BIRTHDAY HANDICAP (£2,659: 1m 2f) (14)

1 (2) 1-41 CASTLES BURNING 38 (CD.F.) C Cyce 5-10-0 J Wesser 2 (1) 034-1 DESTINO 109 (BF.C) P Metan 4-9-12 A Clark 65 (CD.F.) 09-0 SEA SPOUSE 44 (C.S.) M Branchau 8-9-10 . Date Gisson 4 (G. 2006 KNRS ARROW 38 (CD.F.) Howing 4-9-8 . S Whitevastri 5-13 4220 NAWISSBLI HENRY 38 (CD.) Mr. A Frend 5-9-5 C Camer 3-6 (4) 105-4 COMPRONTER 45 (CD.F.G.S.) 5 Down 10-9-4 P Doe (3) 72 (714) 4006 BODMERSHAM PARK 13 P Felgas 7-9-4 ... 6 Partin 7-8 (11) 0030 WANSE 15 (C) Mass 6 Kollews) 6-9-3 K Felian 56 (CD.) 5 (CH. SASA 22 (B.C.) P Bugovine 7-9-1 ... T Outen 80 (CD.) 10 (S) 1300 WINTHOUT PREMOS 3 (N.C.) 6.5) Mr. N Mascules 5-9-1 Dean McKestern 7-1 (3) -630 KAFIL 8 (C) J Budow 5-8-13 6 Bardwell 80 ... 6 Bardwell 80 ... 6 Bardwell 81 (3) -630 KAFIL 8 (C) J Budow 5-8-13 ... 6 Bardwell 80 ... 6 Bardwell 81 (4) 2555 ZABRISNIG 22 (B) G L Moore 5-7-10 ... R Bissland (7) 53 ... 6 Bardwell 81 (9) 2555 ZABRISNIG 22 (B) G L Moore 5-7-10 ... R Bissland (7) 53 ... 6 Bardwell 81 (9) 2555 ZABRISNIG 22 (B) G L Moore 5-7-10 ... R Bissland (7) 53 ... 8 ... 6 Bardwell 81 (9) 2555 ZABRISNIG 22 (B) G L Moore 5-7-10 ... R Bissland (7) 53 ... 8 ... 6 Bardwell 81 (9) 2555 ZABRISNIG 22 (B) G L Moore 5-7-10 ... R Bissland (7) 53 ... 8 ... 3-1 H Destino, 9-2 Capties Burning, 6-1 Ki Chi Saga, 7-1 Kings Anone, 16-1 Controller, 12-1 Without Pitends, 14-7 Wassel, Kafil, 16-1 others.

5.10 BRING YOUR FAMILY TO THE DERBY TRIAL MEETING HANDICAP (£2,558: 71) (6)

1 (5) -612 SHADES OF LOVE 69 (CD) Y Sozie 5-10-0 A Cachrana 80 C (4) D-61 STOPPES BROW B (B.C.D.F.S) S L Moor 7-9-10 (6s) R Britain (7) 90 3 (1) 4615 ANOKATO 13 (V.CD.F) Ms N Maccaley 5-9-7 Deep McKenara 84

3-1 Shades Of Love, 7-2 Stoppes Brone, Mister Tricky, 5-1 Applicato, 6-1 Noble Water, 13-2 Modelani

☐Blue Cloud. André Fabre's highly-regarded Sagitta 1,000 Guineas entry, reappears in the Listed Prix Imprudence over seven furlongs at Maisons-Laffitte today. A 12-1 chance with Coral for the first fillies' Classic. Blue Cloud takes on five rivals including fellow Newmarket entrant Rangoon Ruby.

ROWING

Haining may benefit from withdrawals

SOME 400 scullers will race the Mortlake to Putney Scullers Head on Saturday, but they will not be led off by Greg Searle, the 1998 winner, who has withdrawn because of training problems (Mike Rosewell writes). Many of Britain's other leading performers have not entered this year. choosing to concentrate on the squad trials being held in Nottingham next week. The benefactor could be

Peter Haining, the former triple world sculls champion. Haining won in 1993, 1994 and 1996 and was fifth last year when not in great health. He is hoping for rough water "So that I can think the race rather than work it", and will also presumably be thinking of Niall O'Toole, the Irish former world champion, who won the race in 1995. lan Watson, the 1998 run-

ner-up, has also withdrawn. He has just recovered from injury and feels that the Scullers Head and the trials would be too much in one week. Haining also faces Guy Pooley and Giles Monnickendam, the two other men who beat him last year, and both start ahead of him on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

a. Transparent plastic b. A naval engagement c. A mild laxaove

NUGGER a. A race-course trickster b. Hand on a drilling platform c. A river trading vessel

SOMNATH a. A sleeping draught b. A Holy City A wooden bar

PURFLE

a. To cheal

b. To decorate

c. To flavour

Answers on page 49



in Turin because United never

ond half. After half-time they

played with more aggression

going forward and Giggs

began to shine. He only really

played for one half but he was

superb when he got going."
"We will have to watch him

carefully in the second leg. We

know the de is not over. Unit-

ed will have to come to Italy

and do to us what we have just done to them. We will have to be very focused if we are to

finish what we started."

Alex Ferguson, the United

manager, was quick to launch

his damage-limitation act. For-

ofied by United's 3-3 draw

with Barcelona in the Nou

Camp, their 2-2 draw with Bay-

ern in the Olympic Stadium and by the fact that they are still unbeaten in the European

Cup this season, he had a

hunch, he said, that United

implausible. Juventus have

not played as they did at Old Trafford so far this season and

they may not play like it again.

It is too risky a strategy for

them to play for a goalless draw and if Yorke and Cole

rediscover the rich vein of

form that deserted them, Unit-

ed can reasonably expect to make a game of it. Next time, they will know bener than to

expect Juventus to slip meekly

New kit unveiled, page 3

into subservience,

damage in his knee and faces an

Roy Hodgson, the former

Blackburn manager, could be

next week. If Otto Baric, the favourite for the position, declines

the offer, Hodgson, who has coached Switzerland at international

level, could yet succeed Herbert

Prohaska, who was sacked by the Austria Football Federation.

■ Joe Royle, the Manchester City manager, will begin his attempts to sign Terry Cooke on a permanent

deal today. Cooke has been on loan at City, from Manchester United.

but the loan spell expires on April

named as the new Austria manager

His theory is not totally

could win the Ge in Turin.

give in.

King tests Hendry's powers of resilience

By PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY, who has been happier with his game of late, once again demonstrated his resilience under pressure during a 5-4 victory over Mark King in the British Open at Plymouth yesterday. When Hendry, who did not enjoy the best of fortune in the early stages, went 42 down. King appeared likely to cause the biggest upset of a tourna-ment which, generally, has followed the the formbook.

The six times world champion compiled a 100 break in the seventh frame, won a scrappy eighth, after King had squandered two good scoring chances and accounted for the decider in clinical fashion with a 137 total clearance, his 25th century of the season.

Hendry, who rallied from 8-4 down to beat Stephen Lee 9-8 in the final of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters 12 days ago, drew considerable sadsfaction from his fightback. "It proves that my attitude is good and that I can do the business when I have to. That's always a good sign, especially at this time of year," Hendry, second favourite for the Embassy world champion-

ship, said. Quarter-final opposition for him will be supplied by Anthony Hamilton, the world No II, who put out Mark Williams, winner of the Irish. Welsh and Thailand Opens this season, by 5-4. Hamilton, who had a 134 total clearance in the second frame, was pulled back from 4-2 up to 4-4 and Williams led 36-0 in the decider, Hamilton replying with a run of 59 before potting the green for victory.

John Higgins, the holder, enjoyed a more straightforward passage. He was engaged for only 73 minutes in beating Michael Holt 5-1, after losing the first frame to a yellow to pink clearance.

Higgins, who has dropped only two frames in three matches, now meets Nick Walker or Brian Morgan while Fergal O'Brien, the 5-2 conqueror of Gary Wilkinson. knows that further progress could well seal his place among the top to in the world

Oliver Holt says Juventus may regret their lack of ruthlessness

United draw comfort from escape

hey are drawn to Juventus like moths to a flame - seeking the light, seeking the secret and always forgetting what it feels like to get burnt. Manchester United have become embroiled in a curiously self-destructive flirtation with the Italian champions these past three years that bears all the hallmarks of unrequited love.

On Wednesday night we had been led to believe that the dynamic would change, that the admirers would become the admired, that United finally felt strong enough to stand up for themselves. Instead, when they went looking for approval, boasting about their new-found self-esteem, Juventus laughed in their faces.

In the first half. United watched helplessly as Juventus treated them to an exhibirion in technique and possession football, just as they had two years ago, when they made United realise how far they had to travel before they had a chance of lifting club

football's greatest prize.
In the end, English football was left clutching at those fa-miliar straws of persistence and effort as La Vecchia Signora meted out her punishment for the impudence of suggesting that she had slipped into her dotage.

In Ukraine, Dynamo Kiev suffered for their inexperience. too, as Bayern Munich twice clawed their way back from two-goal deficits to draw 3-3. The Germans, who have not lost a match for five months and lead the Bundesliga by 16 points, are not only favourites

Alen Boksic scored a 77th-minute

equaliser to earn Lazio a I-I draw against Lokomody Moscow in their

semi-final first leg yesterday. Zaza

Dzhanashia, who scored a hat-trick

in Lokomotiv's quarter-final victory

over Maccabi Haifa, had put the

minute when he went round Luca

Marchegiani, the Lazio goalkeeper.

Ruslan Nigmatullin, the Lokomoov

goalkeeper, denied Dejan Stankovic

from close range with three minutes

Kevin Keegan is concerned about England playing a friendly against Hungary as FA Carling

Russian side ahead in the 61st

Lazio finished the stronger and

and finished on the turn.

European Cup Winners' Cup



to reach the European Cup final, they have also replaced United as favourites to win it. If there is hope for United for the second leg of their semi-final, in the Stadio Delle Alpi on April 21, it does not spring from anything that hap-pened at Old Trafford on

Wednesday. There was nothing to suggest that United might be the equals of Juventus in Turin. The glimmer of encouragement comes from the fact that the complacency, almost the lethargy, that pervaded their performance,

from the laziness of their tactics to the carelessness of their passing and the overblown expectations of their supporters. has been banished.

Juventus came close to humiliaong them. United know that better than anyone. Zinedine Zidane, hobbling around on one good leg. ran rings round them. Edgar Oavids outfought Roy Keane. Didier Deschamps turned poor Paul Scholes into the Invisible Man. United were lucky to escape with a 1-1 draw.

"Zidane was absolutely fabu-

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

opening match on Monday, England lost 1-0 to the United States

■ Aston Villa confirmed yesterday

the InterToto Cup. Although the

another route into next season's Uefa Cup. Villa's move has been

fifth place in the Premiership

competition has been maligned in recent years, it now provides

dictated by the new system of qualification introduced by Uefa. Instead of the team that finishes in

that they have applied for a place in

team lost 1-0 to a 64th-minute

Gaspard Komol goal. In their

and are bottom of their group.

said. "Playing like that when he was not supposed to be fully fit was unbelievable. How can they say there was something wrong with him? He has got strength, experience and a great touch with both feet. He was nothing short of magnificent."

lous." Ryan Giggs, whose last-minute equaliser cancelled out

Antonio Conte's first-half goal.

The only way in which Zidane and his team-mates erred is that they did not kill United off. They have benefited from generosity like that themselves this season as they scrambled their way to this stage of the competition. They, more than anyone, know the pitfalls in the abandonment of ruthlessness. So if United have anything to cling on to, it is that their opponents filed on to their coach not full of elation but aching with regret.

We have not done enough to make sure we can get to the final," Davids said. "With English teams you only know you have won the contest when the whistle blows for the final time. It will be very hard for us

or Albans hoping for good luch to continue

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY KEITH PIKE

"Normally when Italian teams take the lead like we did WHEN the draw for the semithey lock the door and throw finals of the FA Umbro Tm. away the key. But this time we phy paired Cheltenham Town gave United the key back. We saw the real United in the secand Kingstonian together in a heavyweight duel, it may have guaranteed that Wem-bley would welcome warm favourites on May 15, whoever delivered the knockout blow. It also ensured that one set of underdogs would have their day at the Twin Towers.

The first legs tomorrow feature a catchweight contest between St Albans City and Forest Green Rovers at Clarence Park, where a team that had never reached even the last 32 of non-league football's most glamorous competition hosts one that stands three matches away from a place in non-league history. In 1982, Forest Green, the unberaided club from deepest Gloucestershire, won the FA Vase, and no club has managed to capture both pieces of silverware. St Albans, as the one mem-

"We will just go out and play to our strengths, but we know that Forest Green are

Steve Clark, 35, the striker who has scored nearly 300 goals in 437 games lor them. Cheltenham, beaten twice in 16 games, the Trophy holders and with one hand on the Conference title, will be in good heart at Kingsmeadow, but if anyone is capable of plotting their defeat it is Geoff Chapple, the Kingstonian manager, who led Woking to three-Wembley triumphs be-

ber of the quartet from out-side the Nationwide Conference, are the clear outsiders, but their run to the last four suggests that Garry Hill's team has the Midas touch in the Trophy. The Ryman League side was 20 seconds from elimination by Ashton United in the fourth round, overcame Dagenham and Redbridge in the fifth despite playing half the match without a recognised goalkeeper, and snatched a last-minute winner against Boston United in the quarter-final through Tom Meredith, a full back who arrived at the ground expecting to be dropped.

firm favourites and that we can't afford even one or two people having an off-day," Hill said. A key man will be Steve Clark, 35, the striker

three Wembley triumphs be-tween 1994 and 1997.

THE TIMES



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Premiership clubs move into the

trophies. The England coach. who

leads the national team out against

Hungary on April 28, said: "I've got

my doubts about whether England

stage of the season where they are

playing for massive prizes and we

England were facing an early exit

from the world youth championship after losing to Cameroon in their

group E match in Kano, Nigeria yesterday. The England Under-20

say, 'well we'll take these four

players'. That's a difficult one."

should be playing a friendly.

They are all coming to the vital

final stages of the quest for

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injury. The England Under-21 player has suffered cartilage gaining entry to the Uefa Cup, that **EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION**

Matt Jansen, the Blackburn

Rovers forward, is not expected to play again this season because of

place has been allocated to

semi-finalists.

Newcastle United, the FA Cup

■ Fabian De Freitas, the West

turn up in time for the Bank

Bromwich Albion striker, has been

fined two weeks' wages for failing to

Holiday defeat at Crewe Alexandra.

Denis Šmith, the manager, said the player had apologised after thinking it was an evening kick-off.

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The fantasy results of Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix will be published

Silverstone

MAKE 3 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS The column of figures after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Australian GP GROUP A DRIVERS

01 M Hakkinen 05 A Zanardi 06 J Villeneuv 07 E Irvine 02 M Schumache 10 J Alesi 11 J Herbert 08 0 Panis **GROUP B DRIVERS** 12 R Schumache 13 HH Frentzen 16 R Zonta 17 Marc Gene 20 P Digiz 21 P de la Rosa 14 A Wurz 15 T Takagi 18 J Truill 19 R Barriche

GROUP C CONSTRUCTORS GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS 23 Mrd aren

HOW TO ENTER

Choose six drivers and six constructors, three from each of the four groups, left. Readers in the

UK can enter by calling the 24-hour hotline on 0840 67 88 88 (Irish Republic +44 870 901 4206). Calls last about seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone. Follow the instructions and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name (max 16 characters), together with your details. You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry. You can enter a team

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RUGBY UNION: CENTRE'S RETURN FROM LEAGUE REWARDED WITH DEBUT AGAINST WALES

Mather breaks country code

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Continut

CLIVE WOODWARD began his term as England coach 17 months ago amid a flurry of newcomers and now harsh necessity is forcing his hand once more. Barrie-Jon Mather, the strapping Sale centre, will win his first cap against Wales at Wembley on Sunday after the withdrawal of Jeremy Guscott.

The route that Mather has followed to international rugby mion is surely unique. He was an England schoolboy lock who crossed the divide to rugby league and won England and Great Britain honours as a forward and a back, before returning to union this season as the biggest centre in the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division. At 6ft 6in and 16st 4lb, Mather can even look down on Steve Hanley, the 6ft 4in wing and Mather's club colleague, who is making his debut.

Who can say what Mike Catt and Jonny Wilkinson, both under 6ft, will make of this land of giants, but it will be their responsibility to bring out the attributes of the newcomers against a side that will explore Mather and Hanley for weaknesses, primed by the inside knowledge provided by Shane Howarth, fly half for Sale but full back for Wales.

"ft doesn't change the way we want to play the game," Woodward said, which could be taken one of two ways: either England can squeeze the Wales pack as much as possible, or they can stick to the fluid game that, with the exception of the first quarter against Scotland, has yet to reach full

Woodward, though, will not be averse to seeing how Mather handles himself, since the England coach still cannot be sure when, or indeed if, Will Greenwood will be available in the centre this year.

Mather provides the same physical dimensions as Greenwood without obviously possessing his silky hands. What he does have, in far greater measure than any of his colleagues, is experience of Wernbley. He has appeared there on three occasions, for Wigan in the 1994 Challenge Cup final against during the 1995 World Cup, both by Wales in Colwyn Bay, in com-



Mather, handed his first cap as a result of Guscott's withdrawal, trains with his England colleagues at Twickenham yesterday

times against Australia and on the

second occasion in the final. He was taught at Arnold School in Blackpool by John Bevan, the former Wales and British Isles wing, who himself went to rugby ague and who is now one of the Welsh Rugby Union's technical directors. But Mather's family background is in league - a grandfather played for Wigan and his father, Tom, had trials - and despite interest from Welsh clubs, including Cardiff, it was to Wigan that he went as a teenager once he had concluded the 1991 England Schools season with a 13-10 defeat

pany with Matt Dawson and Richard Hill, colleagues on Sunday.

His career in that code included a three-year spell with Perth Reds in Australia. It was then that he watched on television as Dawson and Co played for the Lions in South Africa in 1997 and was tempted by the thought of joining them.

When his Super League contract ended, Sale moved in for him. He has been part of the England squad since the autumn and played in the A internationals against Scotland and Ireland this year before moving to the senior England bench against France last month. "It was a bit strange moving from second row to centre, but I was happy to get my head out of the scrum." Mather said. Doing so brings him up against another former rugby league player on Sunday in Scott Gibbs, at a time when Sale prefer to use Jos Baxendell and Chris Yates in their starting XV.

"I have no problem with competition for places, although I think I'm good enough to start every week." Mather said. "I have been chatting to Jerry [Guscott] and I hope he can pass on a few tips for Sunday.

"I don't remember more than two minutes of the 1994 Challenge Cup final. It passed in a blur. The hardest part of coming back to union was reading the game, knowing where the ball is likely to go, all the intricacies, because the game had changed so much since I played it as a schoolbov."

At least, though, Mather should fit into the defensive scheme of things, since that pattern has been woven by Phil Larder, the former rugby league coach with whom Mather has toured.

LINKS

Reid steps up to replace injured Peters

Jair Keid to win his second cap for Scotland, against France in Paris tomorrow. Three years after his international debut in the 15-15 draw with Western Samoa, Reid has been recalled to fill a huge void

left by the absence of Peters. Reid, the captain of Leeds Tykes in the Allied Dunbar Premiership second division, is one of three changes in the pack announced by Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, yes-terday. Tom Smith's broken leg meant David Hilton was guaranteed to start at loose-head prop. but the one surprise is the inclusion of Budge Pountney in a reshuffled back row and the resultant demo-

ONE man's misfortune is another tion to the replacements of Peter man's blessing and the bideous Walton. Pountney plays at open knee injury to Eric Peters has ena- side, allowing Martin Leslie to

Reid, who joined Leeds from Boroughmuir this season, said: "I am chuffed to bits, over the moon, every cliché you care to mention. I had never given up hope of playing for Scotland again, I'm just sorry that it's happened because of Eric's injury. He is a hard act to

Phil Davies, the Leeds coach, applauded Reid's promotion from the A team, which he has captained three times this season. "Stuart is a quick decision maker, very competitive and always gives 110 per cent," Davies said. "He never backs away from a challenge." In

FROM MARK SOUSTER

and under threat, such physical

attributes may come in useful. Telfer said Scotland were seeking extra mobility, which would be provided by playing two open-sides. "As the game is more open in France, it suits us to start that way. Stuart was the only specialist

No 8 in the squad." Scotland are obviously hoping to emulate Wales, who ran France off their feet a month ago, but the team has not exactly done badly with Walton in tow. With his suspect knee, the selectors might have thought that three games in a week for Newcastle had taken their toll

merely served to demonstrate his fitness. His one consolation is that some stage.

Although Scott Murray, the Bedford lock, has proved his fitness, Doddie Weir is travelling with the squad as cover; Andy Reed is the nominated second-row replacement should Murray have to withdraw at any stage.

Unsurprisingly, the selectors have rubber-stamped a back division that has been a revelation this year. Duncan Hodge's injury against Wales meant Gregor Townsend switched to his favoured fly half berth. With John Leslie outside him, Townsend has found a new lease of life at No 10.

"Most people would agree that the ability of the backs to move the ball and back each other up from deep "Gregor, John and Alan [Tait], are very good decision makers."

Ian McGeechan, with Scotland this week in his advisory coaching capacity, said: "Scotland have been as tactically sharp as any team in the Five Nations.

"John Leslie bas created an environment in which Gregor can show what a class player he is. Gregor does things that John can read as well. So he brings him into the game in a more dynamic way. Alan is the same. They have been the best midfield in the championship. With the ball in play Scotland have looked a very good team."

England must resist calls to turn on style

the final Five Nations Championship match of the season at Wemoley on Sunday is the manner in which England intend to play the game. Observers have commented critically on England's style of play, which has been, shall we say, less than pleasing on the eye. This is puzzling. Here are England on the threshold of winning a grand slam in the last Five Nations competition — Italy's presence will extend the championship to six next year yet there is a strong desire for something more intangible and capricious. Something called style, which we are meant to recognise when we see it.

In rugby union, as in much else, there are many styles. It depends on how you carry it. There was once what was, until recently, a recognisable All-Black style of control and discipline, the main design of which centred around the half-backs, the inside centre - or second five-eighths as they prefer to call them - and the back-row forwards. It was an efficient machine.

Then there is the style that is distinctly French and which, on its day, is mobile, fluid and so utterly unpredictable that it is not centred around anything at all other than on every player's freedom to move. It can be inefficient, but it can also be speciacularly inspirational. There are other choices in between.

Given that the changes in the laws have altered significantly the rhythm and tempo They need

a plan B

plan A'

of present-day rugby, England's style, which is recognisably theirs, is closer in form to the former than it is to the latter. There is the to go with same enviable efficiency, allied to composure and power. Yer, while not expecting the same flamboy-

ance, there is a wish to see from England the same seamless harmony that exists between the forwards and backs of the French. Those aspirations might not be realistic, however. It would be the same as expecting a Twickenham crowd to turn up dressed in Armani suits and Gucci shoes. instead of the Barbours and brogues that are said to inhabit the West Stand. Style, after all. is

The England team cannot be anything other than what its members want it to be, not what others would wish it to be. This is how they gain their confidence. To change according to others' wishes is to change for the wrong reasons. In this way, England were diverted in their task in 1991 when they failed to win the World Cup against Australia. England, in much the same circumstances as they are now, were taken in by the propaganda for change. This was a lesson that they thought they had learnt in time for the **GERALD DAVIES**



Rugby Commentary

World Cup four years later. It was the wrong lesson. They stuck inflexibly to their tactics throughout the competition and came a cropper against New Zealand who, in the semi-finals, had prepared a plan in which to disperse England's close-knit forward platoon. England had no reply.

The lesson they should have learnt is that a team must have the ability, given changed circumstances, to alter their mode of play. To put it simply, there should be a plan B to go with plan A and that each should evolve alongside the other. How often is it commented upon that in an effort to change the course of a match a team must, in rugby parlance, "throw the ball around", If a team is not happy doing so when it is in control of a game, how should it be expected to do so

when it is in a desperate position? Catch-up rugby of this sort rarely succeeds and only serves usually to make matters worse.

England are play-ing a style with which they are wholly comfortable. There is nothing wrong with this style, despite the dis-

content of others. After all, there are many who would be pleased with such a reputation. But it is. nonetheless, one in which there is an imbalance. The firepower is weighted too heavily through the forwards and the opposition is never likely to face attacking threats from various points, or kept guessing as to where the next threat is likely to come from

England play 10 a firm struc-tre. Their defence and attack is tightly disciplined around those fringe areas where the patterns are predictable. Phil Larder's rugby league background is much in evidence in the defence of these areas. Any team wishing to overcome England will need to splinter this structure and unsettle the pattern in a way that Scotland almost did. Wales, at this

stage, may not be ready for it. To be sure, though, there will be teams who will be prepared at the World Cup in October. It is a dilemma that will preoccupy England. But first there is Wembley.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL NATRONAL LEAGUE Prisburgh 3 Montred 4, Florida 0 New York Mets 6 Houston 2 Chicago Cubs 8; Atlanta 4 Philadelphia 0, St Louis 4 Milwaukee 1, Sar

BASKETBALL

MATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 108 Washington 87, Charlotte 106 New York 32: Detroit 69 Attains 82, Mismi 93 Delias 87, Vev. Jersey 92 Philadelpha 95, Chicago 74 nofama 91, Miwautae 99 Cleveland 91; Proc-109 O Minnesota 82; Vancouver 84 Deriver 87, Sacramento 89 Los Angeles Lakers 104.

CRICKET India v Pakistan SHARJAH (Pakistan won toss). Pak beal India by 116 runs

PAKISTAN

Total (8 wids, 50 overs) ... Saciam Mushtaq and Shoaib Akhtar did

FALL OF WICKETS, 1-11, 2-56, 3-94, 4-224, 5-272, 6-279, 7-279, 8-279. 5-272, 6-279, 7-279, 8-279. BOWLING. Snnath 10-1-44-1. Praead 10-0-69-3, kumble 10-0-31-1; Singh 8-0-43-0, Joshi 9-0-58-0, Ganguly 3-0-20-0. INDIA

A Jadeja fow b Azher 0
R R Singh c Yousuf b Shehid 26
S B Joehi not out 38
1N R Morga not out 22
Extras (b 4, w 5, nb 3) 123

not bat FAIL OF WICKETS. 1-27, 2-42, 3-47, 4-47, 5-68, 6-108 BOMLING. Wasern Alvam 6-0-24-0, Shoeto Adhter 6-2-12-1, Acher Mehrmood 10-0-20-2, Seglam Mushtag 10-1-37-1; Arthrad Khan 10-0-31-0, Shohid Afrid 6-0-35-2 Levisers, D. 8 Mehr Mushtaller and Umpires: O B Hair (Australia) and I O Robinson (Zimbabwe).

CURLING

ST JOHM, New Brunswick World championalities: Nam: Severath round: Canada 11 Dennark 4; United States 8 Norway 7; Scotland 6 New Zestend 5; Firland 7 Sweden 4. Switzerland 5 Germany 4. Eighth round: New Zestend 4 Finland 7, Sweden 8 Scotland 8; Germany 9 Canada 4. Norway 8 Denmark 1; Switzerland 4 United States 11 Positions: 1, Canada 7 wire 1 loss, equal 2, Norway Scotland and United States 5-3, equal 5, Denmark, Finland, Germany and Switzerland 4-9, 9-Weden 2-6, 10, New Zestand 0-8 Women: Eighth round: Finland 4 Switzerland 6: Sweden 12 Denmark, 3; Germany 6 Canada 5, United States 6-Norway 7; Japan 10 Scotland 2. Positions: 1, Sweden 7-1: 2, United States, Norway 9-2: 4, Denmark 5-3, equal 5, Germany, Switzerland 4-4, 7, Canada, Finland 3-6; 9, Jepan 2-8, 10, Scotland 0-8

CYCLING CHENT-WEVELGEM CLASSIC (210km) T. Steets (Bel, Mapel) 5tr 15min 0sec; 2, Z Struch (Pol, Lampre-Delkn), 3, T Hoffman (Neth, TVM); 4, G Hincaple (US, US Postal); 5, R Variasteins (Let, Vin Califola); 6, J Silous On Life Computer Struck (Park 1) 5, R Variations (Lat. Vin Caldirola); 6, J Stova (Lat. Home Lack and Jones) all at same time. TOUR OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY: Fourth leg (197km) 1, K Moerenhout (Neth. Rabobank) Str. 22min 17sec. 2, F Sacchian (I. Saeco); 3, O de Paoli (Amea Chos. II) both at 28sec; 4, G Figueras (Il. Mape), 5, U Bots (Gar, Talakom); 6, G Verbeyen (Bal. Lotto) 1mm 32sec. Leading oversal positions: 1, Lalabbart (Fr, ONCE) 18th 37min 59sec. 2, O Rebellin (II, Polit) at same time, 3, B Femandez (Sp. Euskatel) 21sec.

FOOTBALL Cup Winners' Cup Semi-final, first lea

L MOSCOW (0) 1 LAZIO Drimmachia 61 Boksic 77 EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-finale, first log: Dynamo Kiev 3 Bayern Munich 3, Manches-

er United 1 Juventus 1
NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Forest Green () Woking 2. ENDSLEIGH CHALLENGE TROPHY: ENDSLEIGH CHALLENGE INCHMEN Semi-Inde Fantorough 2 Cheismorm 0 UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Alimcham 1 Leigh RMI 0; Berloop Auditand 3 Stalybridge 3; Guiseley 3 Finckley 0 First division: Great Harwood 2 Farsiey Cetic 0. Hucknell 0 Witton 1: Metlock 7own 2 Whitley

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Midland divi-DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midland divisions Paget Rangers 2 Westort-super-Mare Solful Borough 1 Stouthorde 1: Suton Coldfield Town 1 Shepshed Dynamo 0.

HYMAN LEAGUE: First divisions Romind 0 Wesidistone 4. Second divisions Banssed 1 Hungerford 1. Third divisions Southal 0 Ford Uld 3 League Capt Semifant, escond leg: Bonsham Wood 1 Madenheed United 0 (Boreham Wood 1 Madenheed United 0 (Boreham Wood with 42 on agg). Plason Cups Sensi-final: Duhrch Hamler, 0 Hendon 2 Vandanet Trophysemi-fight Windows and Eton 3 Marlow 0 AVON INSURANCE COMEDIATION: First divisions Arsené 5 Crystal Palace 0. Samet 1 Cambridge 1: Bournemouth 1 Port

smooth (): Bremmor of wawen of chemion a Grillingham (): Colchester 1 Norwich 1: Luron 4 Oxford (): Southempton 1 Reading 2, West Ham () Ipswich 4: Wimpledon 3 Swindon () Ham 0 lpsach 4: Wimbledon 3 Swindon 0 Wycombe 1 Northempton 1. Printrains LEAGUE: Premier division: Backburn 5 Presion 1: Leack 3 Asten Vision: Backburn 5 Presion 1: Leack 3 Asten Vision: Backburn 6 Second division: Blackpool 1 Sheffield Und 2; Lincoin 2 York 1. Scarborough 3 Weschem 1: Sinvessbury 3 Notes Co 0 Tailed division: Bury 0 Cartasle 0, Chesterfield 1 Hull 1: Robbelle 2 Darington 1, Wassall 2 Hallax 1. Wigen 6 Chester 0 FA WOMEN'S PREMER LEAGUE: National division: Liverpool 5 Transvers 10. FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern divi-sion: Benkramsled 3 Coventry 0 Southern division: Wintbedon 3 Langland 2 ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: Pirst division: Bangham 2 Shidon 2; New-caste Bus Sta 3 Morpeth 2

Cashe BOA'S CAT 3 MORPETT 2.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE CUP: Semi final, second leg: Moneyfields 0 Lyrring Ion and New Moon 3. ion and New Moon 3.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Stath round: Winbledon of Coverby 3 Revised semi-final draw five legs, first learn afterne in first legy. West Hern United v Everlan, Nathraghern Farest or Newcasile United

Coventry Caly
 PEPA WORLD YOUTH CUP: Group A (in Lagos). Costa Rica 1 Paraguay 3 Group B (in Kaduna): Croabe 5 Kazakhstan 1. Group C (in Ibadam): telatind 2 Saud Araba θ Group D (in Enugur): Unuquay 1. South Korea 0 Group E (in Kano) Cameron 1 England 0. Group F (in Calabar) Spain 0 Zamba 0.

SANDWICH: Haiford Hewitt Cup: First round: Makern 4 Bishop's Stortford 1. Weltingborough 3 Loreno 2: Westmister 3 King's, Canterbury 2: Highingto 3's Bright-on 1k; Lancing 3k; Frankingham 1k, Duk on 19; Larcing 39; Framerigham 19; Dul-wich 49; Storyhurst W. Epsom 31; Cankrd 19; Reptom 3 Radiey 2, Bradiekd 5 Chy of London 0; Charteshouse 4 Downside 1; Wasson's 34; Wellington 19; Mel Hig 3 Taun-ton 2; Mercheston 4 Grestham's 1; Eron 4 Marthorough 1; Royel 31 George's Feiths 4 Trent 1; Halleybury 5 King Edward's, Br-mingham 0 Hamow 39; Liverpool 19; Chel-tenham 39; Rugby 19; Torobridge 4 Berkhamsted 1; Forest 3 Rossel 2; Feisted 3 Aldenham 2; Chigwell 3 Bedtond 2; Sher-bourne 1; Orton 3 Si Paul's 2; Glenalmond 5 Hurstipterpoint 0.

ICE HOCKEY ODENSE, Denmark: World champlon-ship: Pool B: Greet Britain 2 Slovena 1; Kazakirstan S Poland 2 MATIONAL LEAGUE (NHLL: Montreal 2 Carolina 0, Weshington 2 St Louis 4, Detool 6 Vancouver 1, Flonda 2 Boston 5; Toronto 4 Cterea 2, Dellos 5 Archem 1; Colorado 4 Nastwille 1: Edmonton 4 Celgary 2.

RUGBY LEAGUE JJB SUPER LEAGUE: Huddersfield 14 Castistord 36

RUGBY UNION ANGLO-WELSH CLUB MATCH: Cerdin 42 Sets 5 WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Cross Keys 12 Burymann 35

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THS-WORLD RACE:
Leg 4e (Hong Korg to Singapore, with miles
to finish) 1, Chrysotie (1 Hedges) 495, 2,
Mermerus (6 Solera) 499, 3, Antopo (K.Hans) 509, 4, Arte (a) Thomson) 509, 8, equal 5,
Serios (R Dean) and Tespany in Flammay
511, 7, Thempoylee (M Tod) 527,
GRAFHAM WATER, Cessbridgeshire: Volvo RYA youth methods champtone-libre (a)
Les lourth day), 420 seen (after eight races, one decard) 1, R Waston and M Ele: 20pt;
2, N Beiker and J Chilon 34, 3, I Martin and C
Martin 41 420 women (after eight races, one decard) 1, R Barnes and J Martin 420, 40
Martin 41 420 women (after eight races, one decard) 1, R Barnes and J Martin 42, 2, C
Bessadore and H Maythew 97, 3, H Brown
and J Soot 110 Laser (after eight races, one
decard) 1, R Commander 22, 2, M Howard
22, 3, B Fhodes 28, Laser radial men (efter
eight races, one decard), 1, B Hot
118; 2, K Archer 168; 3, N Lloyd 271

TIGNES, France: British Land Junior and châdren's national championships: Criditiren's Stelom: Overall girls: 1, K Head (DHO Ski Club/odord) Imm 24 43ec; 2, S Bream (Knydelar) Ski Club/ny Gross, Corwyl 127 10; 3, R Traves (Aberdeen Ski Club/Stelom) 127:35 Châdren one year of brin 1985-87; 1, P Thortum (Aberdeen Ski Club/Straftven) 1,31:30, 2, R O'Neat (Sandown Perk, Ream) Club/Cristhem) 1:32:83, 3, E Taytor (DHO/Worskop) 1,35:97 Overall boys: 1, J Rennie (Aberdeen Ski Club/Straftven) 1:12:67, 2, P Wilson (DHO/Champer, Switz) 1:13:00, 3, JHuri (Show Club/St Abard) 1:16:54 Children one year of brith 1985-87; 1, E Drake (Kandahar/Kingston-upon-Thames) 1:17:16, 2, F Clough (Snow Club/Cheins-

ord) 1.17 30; 3, J-M Kochalski (Gordon Ski-ers/Torohins) 1.23.23

SNOOKER PLYMOUTH PAVILIONS: British Operc Second round: G Willanson (Eng) bt is Dohary (tre) 5-4, J Parrott (Eng) bt J Winte (Eng) 5-4, S Hendry (Sout) bt G Dott (Soot) 5-2. A Henviton (Eng) bt P Hunter (Eng) 5-4. J Michie (Eng) bt M Campbell (Soot) 5-2. Third round: S Hendry (Soot) bt M King (Eng) 5-4; Hamston bt M Williams. (Wales) 5-4. J Hogins (Soot) bt M Holt (Eng) 5-1; F O'Bnen (tre) bt Willenson 5-2.

ESTORYL OPEN: Men: Second round: G Kuerten (Br) to J Novas, (Cz) 6-3, 8-4, T Martin (US) to I N Marques (Pro) 7-5, 6-3, M Rico (Citile) to A Pontas (Sp) 6-3, 8-3. F Meligran (Br) to I H Arazo (Mor) 6-2, 6-2. Women: Second round: L Bastreve (Bull to E Wagner (Ber) 7-5, 6-3, C Torrens Valero (Sp) to S Pikowski (Fr) 6-4, 6-1, S Tataja (Cro) to L Cervarrova (Slovekta) 6-3, 6-2, K Selbotnik. (Sloventa) to J Albe (Ger) 5-7, 8-4, 6-2. AMELIA (SLAND, Floride: WTA Bausch and Lomb ethemploniship: Second round: M Pierce (Fr) to C Cristee (Rom) 6-0, 6-0, C Rubin (US) to K Penril (US) 6-1.

6-0, C Ruban (US) bt K Brandi (US) 6-1, 6-3, 6-3.

HONG KONG OPEN: Second round: B Becker (Ger) bt W Fernein (SA) 5-4, 7-6. B Karbacher (Ger) bt B Steven (N2) 6-4, 8-0. J Bjortonen (Swe) bt G Motormura (Japan) 6-2, 6-4, L Telemen (In) bt C Memiti (US) 6-3, 6-4; N Kafer (Ger) bt P Srichephen (Tha) 6-1, 6-4; H Dreakmann (Ger) bt M Chang (US) 3-6, 7-5, 6-4; A Agassi (US) bt O Gross (Ger) 6-2, 6-3; R krajock (Neth) bt K Carlson (Den) 7-5, 7-5

MADRAS: Indian Open: First round: C Moyà (So) bt V Voltchov (Gel) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, B Back (Zm) bt P Goldstein (US) 7-5, 6-1; D Burgsmuler (Ger) bt S Schalken (Neth) 4-6, 6-3, 6-1; K Kucera (Slovales) bt M Kohlmann (Ger) 7-5, 6-1; S Sargsson (Arm) bt T Johansson (Swe) 6-4, 3-0 ret.

TELFORD: Under-16 national champlonshipus Boys: Seria-finales: B Rby (Yorks) bt B Archer-Clows; (Vianwcks) 6-2, 6-3, M Short (Cheshire) bt A Banks (Vints) 7-6, 6-1. Gitter Sersi-finales: J Smith (Surrey) bt E Galtacha (Soot) 5-7, 7-5, 6-4, K Vymetai (Surrey) bt J O'Donoghue (Lancs) 6-4, 6-2

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 47

MYLEX (b) In 36 BC the Pompeian fleet under Sextus Pompeius encoun-tered the fleet of the Triumvin under Agrippa. The Pompeians were defeated.

lc) The traditional trading vessel in the lower reaches of the Nile. PURFLE (b) To border or decorate with a wrought or ornamental border. SOMNATH

SOLUTION TO WINNING 1 Pvf7+1 Kvf7 2 Oxh7+ Ke6 (2 ... Kf8

(b) A holy place in India.

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Reckless Tiger fails to see the woods for the trees

ting out at 10.38 yesterday morning at Augusta. Tiger Woods, Sergio Garcia and a young man called Tim Herron, who everyone re-ferred to as Lumpy. I have to admit I was unacquainted with Lumpy, and was rather startled to see chaps on the course wearing "Lumpy" baseball caps. Personally, I would hate to be known as Lumpy. but I suppose there are different ways of looking at things when you can do the front nine at Augusta in a very respectable par 36. Especially, I assume when alongside you. Tiger Woods is taking 38, and the sun is so hot that shots into the shade of the pines look a lot more tempting than they

Woods famously took 40 on the front nine in his Masterswinning year of 1997; the shock of it impelled him to greater exertions. So it was no matter for alarm when the first few holes vesterday found him following up his birdie-three on the first with a par five and then a bogey-five on the third. Perhaps the famous

Tiger-proofing of Augusta had been successful - although, come to think of it, redesigning a course just to foil one player seems a bit vindictive really. The way it's generally dis-Augusta moved some teeboxes back, added bunkers and everything, just to make one particular man's life a bit more difficult.

Anyway, the Tigermania crowd that usually cheers Tiger every inch of the way, and murmurs significantly when he adjusts his baseball cap or wipes his nose, was likewise determined not to peak too soon. So, apart from munering respectfully "Split the fair-way in half!" or "That was an iron shot!" they were biding their time, endlessly reminding each other who Garcia was. and waving Lumpy!" whenever the Her-

ron chap went by. What the experts always want to know is how Tiger will handle the par-fives. And well. yesterday, for the first half of his round, it wasn't great. I can tell you because I was toiling around the course under a fierce sun, keeping hlm in sight, and saying: "My, it's so ho-ot". like something out of Tennessee Williams. A tiger, a kid and a person famous for their lumps - it's just not a combination that you come across every day. Anyway, on the pink dogwood second hale where Herron efficiently birdied - Tiger found himself with a chance of a birdie, but only if he could putt successful-



At Augusta

ly lung, uphill and breaking left. "He always goes for the hero shot," someone said nearby, as the putt rolled on past the hale. "Believing he can do any shot is his strength, but it's also his weakness."

And the description turned out to be prophetic, because un the 8th hole - a 550-yard uphill hole with a green cut off from view by the horizon -Woods teed off into the pine trees on the left of

'Believing

he can do

any shot

is his

strength

. .and his

weakness'

the fairway and as the ball made a sickening "crack!". he dropped momentarily through the time-space continuum. It was alarming, I can tell

It was also so hot out on the course by now that usually well-organised people, who had stupidly left all their money in the press room () mean

me) were forgetting to be Blanche Dubois any more and just begging at the concession stands for a bit of ice to suck

In short,) was pink, footsore and delirious, and to see Woods disappear from the actinn was a bit too like a nightmare. "Hope he doesn't go for the hero shot." I said to myself. staggering slightly, at which point "crack!" - he hit the trees again, and his ball ricocheted deeper into the greenery. "He should have taken a

EARLY SCORES

69: B Chamblee, D Love

70: C Monigomerie (GB), J M Olazabal (Sp), J Leonard

71: S Pate, R Estes, A Lyle (GB).

72: C Stadler, J Daly, W Glasson

74: O Browne, G Hjertstedt (Swe), R Floyd, J Huston

75: S Hoch, C Pavin, C Parry (Aus)

78: S Verplank, S Maruyama (Japan)

73: R Mediate, T Lehman

80: G Brewer

United States unless stated " denotes an amateur 13.15; G Player (SAI, * T Immelman (SA), S Sincker 13.26: 8 Crenshaw, "T McKright, L Roberts 13.37: 5 Ballesteros (Sp), H Sution,

drop," people were whispering

around me, and after a great

deal of kerfuffle, a drop is

what he duly took. He ended

up with a triple-bogey eight. and his supporters exchanged

significant glances as they

looked in disbelief at the score-

13.37; S Ballesteros (Sp), H Sutton, W Maybar 13.48; J Maggert, V Singh (Fiji), P Stewart 13.59; N Faido (GB), E Waits, J Durant 14.10; F Zoeller, M Cavals (Japan), F Funk 14.21; A Palmer, "J Miller, W Wood 14.32; B Langer (Ger), M Calcaveochia O Carler (GB) 14.43; P Michelson, G Norman (Aus), J Parnewik (Swel) 14.54; L Janzen, J Cook, F Lichfer

J Pamevik (Swe)
14.54: L Janzen, J Conk, F Lichfer
15.05: J Haze, W Andrade, T Bjorn (Den)
15.16; M O Meard, " H Kuehne.
L Westwood (GB)
15.27: O Duvol, N Price (Zim), R Tway
15.28: C Coody a Jobe
, P-U Johansson (Swe)

TEE TIMES FOR TODAY 15.49: M Brooks, S Crik, D Toms 16.00: P Azinger, J Futyk, G Disy 16.11: W Casper, G Brewer, O Ford 16.22: \$ Pate S Hoch, R Estes 16.33: J Daly, G Hjensacd, Swell, O Browne 16.44: A Livia (GB), C Pavin, S Verplank 16.55: C Startier, C Parry (Aus), R Mediate 17.06: R Floyd, C Montgomerie (GB), S Jones

Woods has plenty to chew on after recording a triple-bogey eight at the par-five 8th hole

Glancing at my idiot's guide to

the course, I noted that the

"Tiger blew up?" they asked.

S Jones 17,17: J M Olazabal (Sp), W Glasson 8 Chambles 17:28: E Els (SAI, O Love III, T Lehman 17:39: J Leonard, S Maruyama (Japan), J Huston 17:50: F Couples S Elengton (Aus), S McCarron

S McCarron 18.01: 2 Favon, JP Hayes, T Dodds (Nam) 18.12: T Watson, * M Kuchar, S Appleby (Aus) 18.23: I Woosnam (GB), P Sjoland (Swe),

long hitter on the eighth is recommended to drive the ball "past or over" the fairway bunker on the right. But Tiger wasn't playing the long hitter role yesterday. In fact, it was a

The birdies started again for Woods, thank goodness, on the inward nine, but unfortunately by then I was lying under a bush, trying to cool down with an ice-pack on my head, so I didn't see it.

mystery what he was trying to

Garcia, who had started his round badly with two bogeys and had scored 39 on the front nine, finally started birdying too. I hope his head came up at that point; he looked tense and somehow embarrassed when I was watching him, as his shots zigzagged the fairways in the manner once memorably described by P.G. Wodehouse as like a liner pursued by submarines.



BBC1, 10,20pm.

Sparkling Andrews

THERE were easy victories and close victories in the first round of the Halford Hewitt Cup yesterday, but none was narrower than the margin by which Repton defeated Radlev. With the match score standing at 2-2, the final foursome went into extra time. and sudden-death did not befall Radley until the 23rd hole of the contest.

Renton, who have not won this annual team matchplay tournament of the Public Schools Golfing Society since 1986, were represented in the crucial match by Keith Andrews and Douglas Campbell, their captain, and, Andrews it was who sank the winning putt on the 5th.

It was from no more than 6ft, though by the time the tale had been retold a few times in the Royal Cinque Ports clubhouse the distance was probably closer to twice that: golfers are like anglers in their pre-disposition to romantic exaggeration.

Malvern, three times the beaten finalists in the Nine-ties, had a 4-I victory over Bishop's Stortford, and Charterhouse the defending champions, beat Downside by a similar score.

Meanwhile, just up the road at Royal St George's, Tonbridge, the beaten finalists last year. eased their way into the second round with a 4-1 win over Berkhamsted.



Comedy's hit parade

Laughter in the House BBC1, 9.30pm

The final part of this Julie Walters narrated series brings us through the years from The Young Ones to Birds of a Feather, Men Behaving Badly, One Foot in the Grave and Absolutely Fabulous, via Yes, Minister and Only Faols and Horses. I found the comment and analysis from writers and performers better than in previous episodes, with the background on Yes, Minister and Men Behaving Badly particularly enlightening. The clips used are tantalising, especially when Del Boy's evening in the wine bar ends before the famous pratfall through the open bar-flap, but at least we do get almost all of that sequence from One Foot in the Grave in which a blindfolded Mr. Meldrew sleeps with a bewildered old woman. The final part of this Julie Walters partrated series Meldrew sleeps with a bewildered old woman, thinking she is his wife.

Frasier: Three Valentines Channel 4. 10pm . .

As with Wednesday's Christmas special of ER, we As with Wednesday's Christmas special of ER, we find ourselves out of step with America, tonight's trio of entirely self-contained sketches rather belatedly marking Valentine's Day. No apologies are necessary, however, for it includes possibly the funniest piece of (almost) wordless consedy this side of Chaplin. Niles Crane (David Hyde Pierce) is using Frasier's apartment (complete with resident dog Eddie, a fascinated onlooker) to entertain the lemale president of the wine society to dinner—and things don't go quite according to plan...

Walden On Villains: Hitler BBC2, 7.30pm

Brian Walden's series on heroes caused a stir when Brian Walder's series on heroes caused a sur when he questioned Nelson Mandela's right to that status, but this new run is far less fikely to cause controversy, at least in terms of the subjects included. A 30-minute piece, delivered straight to camera withour Autocue or pauses for sips of water, unillustrated apart from a final still image of Hitler, this should by rights be impossible.

The classic Only Fools and Horses features in Laughter in the House (BBC1, 9.30pm)

viewing. That it isn't although Walden's verbal his. and idiosyncratic pronunciation are problematic, is tribute both to the enduring ascination of Hitler's rise to power and to the insight Walden brings to bear upon it. He sees Hitler as the first truly modern politician, a demagogue who gained the support of the people by offering them the chance to escape the boring reality of party politics, offering them a vision of community and spiritual awakening, if only they would trust him to make their dreams come true.

Beware: Shoplifters at Work

Sound Stories: Cathedrals

Radio 3, 11am

ITV. 9pm Not quite a docusoap, more the first in a oew series devoted to various crimes and those who make their living from them. There are interviews with shoplifiers, including one who was barred by court order from two of the country's largest retailers, with security staff and store detectives. Closed-circuit television film from around the world reveals some of the truly ingenious and some downright ludicrous ways in which these theresand shoplifiers coming face to face at a clothing fair.

Tony Patrick Not quite a docusoap, more the first in a new series

Sound Stories is not much longer for this world but

while it lasts I (and a good many listeners) will remain unfashionably loyal. I suspect that I like the series because I learn things that I did not know before, whereas of course your typical Radio.

3 listener is above admitting that there might be anything to be learnt by listening to the radio. Oh well. Today the subject is York Cathedral, which was struck by lightning a couple of years ago. There was also a fire at the cathedral in 1829, but I had not realised until todays programme that it

started when a man set fire to the organ because he disliked its tone. Today's music includes Haydn's The Creation and Elijah by Mendelssohn.

BBC WORLD SERVICE

venes rauseme currons 12.45 insight 1.90 the World Today 1.30 Science it Action 1.55 My Century 2.00 The World Today 2.30 Meridiein Books 3.00 The World Today 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.20 Sports Round-up 4.30 Weekend

CLASSIC FM

6.00cm Michael Mappin's Easier Breaktast. Music to get the day off to a fine start 9.00 Henry Kelly. The Half of Fame Hour and Classic Masterpiece. 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones plays tavouritemusic 2.00pm Concerto. Pasculli (Grand Concerto on Themes. Irom. Verd's. (Vespri Scillant): Dupin

A SER

₽.

Peter Barnard

Feedback

Radio 4. 1.30mm At last, the return of the programme that gives the listeners a chance to let off steam. Much like Prime Minister's Question Time, Feedback returns once Minister's Question Time, Feedback returns once a week and twice as long, but with all due respect to the highly-regarded Roger Bolton, I remain at a loss to explain why Chris Dunkley is no longer the presenter. If it is true that Dunkley was insufficiently malleable one can only hope that Bolton will prove equally hard to please, but the difficulty here is that whereas Dunkley was television critic of the Financial Times, Bolton actually works for the REC—as head of Network actually works for the BBC — as head of Network Production in Manchester, Still, the proof is in the eating. New features include a slot where listeners will be able to interview broadcasters.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30em Zoe Bell 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Mark Fladcille 4.00 Chris Moyles S.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Pele Tong's Essential Selection 9.00 Judge Jules 11.00 Westwood:

5.00 and The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlook 7.55
My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 World Business Report 8.15
Incight 8.39 Focus On Faith 9.00 World News 9.05 Westway
8.20 Oil the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping 9.35 Science in
Action 10.00 World News 10.05 Speaking Of English 10.20
The Vintage Chart Show 10.50 Spoats Round-Up 11.00
Newsdesk 11.30 Britain Today 11.45 World Business Report
12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm Focus on Faith 1.00 World News
1.05 Cottook 1.45 Spoats Bound-Up 2.00 Newshor 3.00
World News 3.05 Science in Action 3.30 Music Review 4.00
World News 4.05 Foctool Extra 4.15 Cottee* A Helish Brew
4.30 John Peel 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business
Report 5.45 Insight 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Short Story 6.45
Sports Round-Up 7.00 World News 8.05 Science in Actor 8.30
The Way We Are 8.45 Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping
9.00 Newstoor 10.00 World News 8.05 Science in Actor 8.30
The Way We Are 8.45 Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping
9.00 Newstoor 10.00 World News 1.05 Science in Actor 8.30
News 11.15 Spoats Round-Up 11.30 John Peel 12.00 World
News 12.05 are Outlook 12.45 Insight 1.00 The World Today
1.30 Stence in Action 1.56 My Cordun 2.00 The World Today
1.30 Stence in Action 1.56 My Cordun 2.00 The World Today 6.00cm Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogen 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Michael Aspet 7.00 The Michael Feinstein Songbook — Turns Another Page (4/8) 7.30 Friday Night Is Misc Night 9.15 John Ed

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm len Payne. Commentary on the 2.35, 3.10 and 3.45 races on day two of the Aintree Festival 4.00 Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Alan Green's Sportsnight, Alan Green and guiests discuss the week's sporting issues end look entead to the Grand National at Aintree 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00em Up All Night

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm & Sally James 12.00 Motoring 1.00pm Anna Reeturn \$.00 OK to Talk 4.00 Chicket: India v. England 8.00 Nicky Home's Access all Areas 10.00 James H Reeve 1.00am Mike Dickin

TALK RADIO

6.30am Breaklest Show Team 9.30 Russ Wilkens 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harrist Scott 7.00 Wheels of Steel 11:00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00mm James Morntf

Concerto on Themes from Vard's (Vespri Sidilari): Dupin (Fantasia: on Arias irom La Travelle): 3.00 Jamie Cnck. Continuous Classics, plus sport updates and travel news 6.30 Newshight. Top stories and interviews with guests from the arts world 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunting Introduces classic sounds 5.00 Evening Concert. Ravel (Plano Concerto in G); Stravinsky (Petruchka): Beethovan (Symphony No 5) 11.00 Marin at Nigrit 2.00ain Concerto (r) 3.00 Marin Griffiths. The Early Breadast Show

6.00am On Air With Petroc Trelawny, Music includes a 8.00am On Air With Petroc Trelawny, Music includes a Faure barcarolle performed by pranist Jean-Philippe Collard

9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday, Wolf (Italian Serenade); Purcell (Te deum in D. 2232); Tchaikovely, ar Glazunov (Meditation Scherzo, Souvenir d'un fieu cher), Beethoven (Vertations on a Wattz by Dabelli, Op 120)

10.30 Artist of the Weelc John Temilinson

11.00 Sound Stories; Cathedrats See Choice

12.00 Composer of the Weelc Britten (r)

1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Chris de Souza presents a recitat given at last year's Bath Festival, Christopher Mellman, bartone, Malcolm Martineau piano, Mendelssohn (Schlafloser Augen Leuchte: Keine von der Erde schonen, Venebra Militigen (Machilled, Hesenlied), Venebra Militigen (December of Temetalian).

Venetianisches Gondelteid, Nachtlied, Heisentlied),
Vaughan Williams (Songs of Travel): Ravel (Don Cuchotte a ducinee)

2.00 The BBC Orchestres BBC Philhamnonic under Yan Pascal Torteller, Julian Lloyd Webber, cello. Bridge (Suite: The Sea): Bgar (Cello Concent in Eminor): Rachmannov (Symphony No 2 in Eminor)

4.00 Music Restored Luce Steaping infoduces a selection of 18th-century French chamber music from the time of Louis XIV (f)

5.00 In Tune Sean Raflerty introduces music including Bech (Cello Suite No 1 in G), played by Yo-Yo Ma.

7.45 Performance on 3: Endless Parade (Sounding the Century) Live from the Ulster Hall, Beitast. Venetianisches Gondelleid, Nachtlied: Heise

Ulster Orobestra under John Carewe. Britten (The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra), Holloway (Scenes from Schumann) 8.30 Anglophiles: Foreign born artists and thinkers choose their favourite examples of British achievements in the postwar arts. Presented by Phillip Dodd 8.50 Concert, part two. Vaughan Williams (Symphony No 6).

9.35 Postecript: Cinema Apocalyptica (5/5).
10.00 Hear and None: Passion and Resurrection Jonethan Hayev's church opera — a searning.

9.35 Postsacript Cinema Apocalyptica (5/5)
10.00 Hear and Now: Passion and Resurrection
Jonathan Harvey's church opera — a scaringly
intense dramatisation of the events of Holy Week
and Easter, in which the words of medieval
monastic plays are forged into a music drama in
which both pertinmers and audience play their
part. Stuart Machityre, bartione, Andrew.
MacKenzie-Wicks, tenor, BBC Singers, Sintonia-21
under Martin Néary.
11.30 Jazz Century (Sounding the Century) Russell
Davies presents a 52-part Instory of jazz (7)
12.00 Through the Night 12.05 Sibertus (Kyfikla 12.20
Gigout (Foccata) 12.45 Sauguet (Natri coloniate
sur les bords) 1.00 Cest (Opera: Corontea) 4.10
Beathoven (Viotin Sonata, Op 30 No 1) 4.35
Strauss (Burleske) 5.00 Rossint (Ovarture, La
cencentola) 8.15 De la Rue Pour une jamais)
5.25 Bach (Suite in D minor, BW997) 5.30
Lessus (Musica Dei donum) 5.45 Messisseen (O
sacrum convivium) 5.35 A Sibelius song

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today Anna Hill presents rural reports 6.00 Today introduced by John Humphrys
9.00 Desert Island Discs Sue Lawley's castaway is

9.00 Desert Island Discs Sue Lawley's castaway is the . champion jockey Richard Ourwoody (r) 9.45 (FM) Serial: Just William — The 80th Amalventary Martin Jenvis reads The Cure, the last of live stories by Richmel Compton 9.45 (LM) An Act of Woostrip 10.00 Women's Hour Sheila McClerinon talks to Rose Ellut about vegetarian recipes for grifs and barbecues includes part five of Diary of a Provincial Lady, by E.M. Deleteld 11.00 Living Delf Alari Doin celebrates Barbie's 40th birthday, travelling to California to meet the creators of the loy company Mattel and the daughter that inspired them 11.30 Married Cornedy drama by Tony Bagtey. Robin warms to his adopted 'wife' but his new-found peace is not to last. Staring Hugh Bonnevitle, Josie Lawtence and Berbera Murray (4/5) 12.00 (FM) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast 12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer issues and public service reports, presented by

12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer saues and public service reports, presented by Liz Barclay and Mark Whittaker.

1.00 The World at One with James Co. 1.30 Feedback New series Roger Bolton presents listeners where at BBC ratio. See Choice.

2.00 The Archers Yesterday Stelland (f).

2.15 Afternoon Play: J. Edgar Hoover — They Cell Him Bobby by Mke Walker The third of four plays about the legendary anti-communist FBI. Director is set during the volatile era of Kennedy's Administration. Staming William Hootkins and John Shartan.

3.00 Making History Sue Cook gets to the bottom of historical mysteries

3.30 What's Yours is Mine Flory Cellan-Jones investigates the role money plays in relationships. Last in series (4/4) (r) 3.45 This Sceptred take Part 70 of the history of

Cast in sense (444) (f)

3.45 This Sceptred iste Part 70 of the history of
Britain, narrated by Anna Messey (r)

4.00 Booketub James Naughtie meets Joseph Heller,
the author of Catch 22 (r)

4.30 The Messege Alex Brodie and his guests discuss
current media trends

5.00 PM with Chris Lowe and Eddie Mair

6.00 Str. O'Clock News

6.30 The News Gutz Topical curz with the Times
columnist Alan Corea and Andy Hemilton, hosted
by Simon Hoggart

7.00 The Archere

7.15 Front Row Arts review, with Mark Lawson

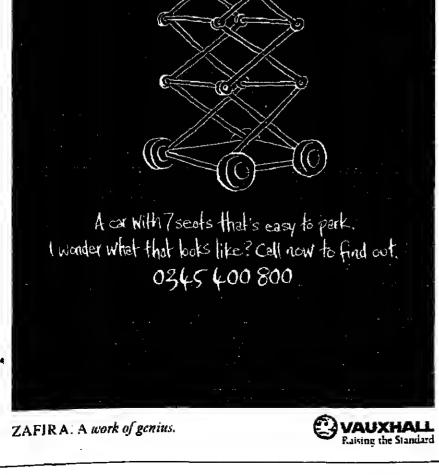
7.45 Dissy of a Provincial Lady E.M. Delefield's
household journal, starring finelds Staurton and
Richard Hope. Broadcast earliers a part of
Woman's Hour (r)

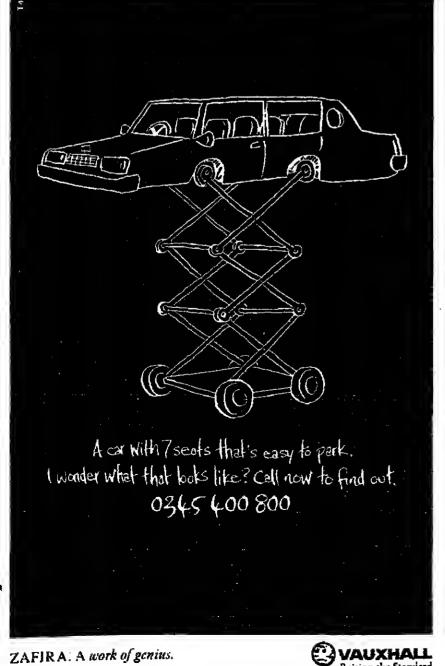
8.00 Any Questions? Donald Dewar, Secretary of
State for Scotland, and Michael Forsyth discuss
the latest topical issues at Torbridge Grammar

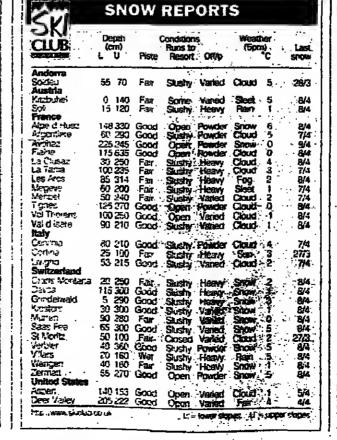
State for Scotland, and Michael Forsyth discuss the latest topical issues at Torbridge Grammar School for Girts in Kent, Nick Clarks presides School for Manager Duttani. Two families meet to arrange a mamager but a clash of outbures threatens fire regolations Staming Paul Bhattacharjer and Indira Varma (r) 10.80 The World Toelight with Pobin Lusting 10.45 Book at Bedtimes Archangel Alan Howard reads par tive of Robert Hams's besteeling finaler.

11.00 Later Night on 4: Later Tackle Eleanor Otdroyd focuses on the forthorizing Grand National 12.00 News 12.30 m The Late Books Earthly Joys Kevin Whately reads part live of Philippa Gregory's nose, King Charles begins his reign 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1. FM 97.6-98.8. RADIO 2. FM 98.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 902-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 683, 909. WORLD SERVICE: MW 646; LW 196 (12.45-5-55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 190-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1216. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1089, Television and radio listings compiled by Parry Cleveland-Pack, Lim Haghes, Giffian Movey, Jane Gregory and









Journey into light with a one-time enemy

here is no getting around it. his life. If Simon's Journey (BBCi) livid orange, under dense black smoke, while inside, Weston's pretty. It is not just the fact gy has worked a treat. of the disfigurement, but the nature of it - flesh seared into grotesque shapes, like molten wax. exposed, eyelids unnaturally stretched or hooded. ears missing. The sight cuts through us, screaming "raw pain" at those fortunate enough to see a normal healthy image in the bathroom mirror.

Repair work helps, but not much. The worst ravages are disguised, but the results can take on a Frankenstein quality. Such faces are the stuff of cheap horror movies. "That must be terrible to live with," we mutter, with a chill. In fact it is our reaction, not the disfigurement itself, that is the problem. After a long dark night of the soul, Britain's most famous burns victim, Simon Weston, decided he

had better just carry on regardless

and get as much as he could out of

Last night we saw him parachuting and running a marathon in New York for his charity, the Weston Spirit. He has a cheerful, sporty wife, Lucy - who says she wouldn't have fancied the man he was before he was injured - children and a house that looks like a showroom. His life, he says, "is

very rich and very happy now". Given the potent cocktail of nationalistic emotions stirred by the Falklands war, it is ironic that this victim of military misjudgment has become the conflict's only lasting icon. I doubt that any other participant has been the subject of so many documentaries. No images brought the war

home more rudely than the footage from Bluff Cove: that Welsh Guardsman on a stretcher, shreds of flesh hanging from the stump of his leg: the Sir Galahad burning

hands were burning as he vainly tried to save three of his mates.

The profile intercut that footage with Weston's life now and clips from earlier stages of his long road to recovery, moaning for painkillers in Woolwich Military Hospital and giving his mother hell as he struggled with depression.

ost fascinating was the growing relationship with Carlos Cachón, the Argentine Skyhawk pilot who bombed the ship. Befriending this thoughtful, modest man seems to have done more than anything else to complete Weston's redemption in this "human interest story" par excellence. And by the end of the programme, I had ceased to notice his injuries.

that the undercover filming was all done by a West London-based pressure group called Animal Defenders. In the age of the fake What a contrast to Mary Chip-perfield, recently convicted on 12 counts of cruelty to a chimpanzee and the docusoap, it seems, you might as well do it yourself.

REVIEW



named Trudi. You might think that Secrets Of The Circus (Channel 4) was a rare example of a documentary team taking the trouble and risk involved in some genuine investigative journalism. Except

Paul

The group infiltrated five of its you want. Really to hurt it, howev-field officers into nine of er, you should smash it on the jaw. Britain's 17 animal circuses and three sets of winter quarters. Only one of the establishments they targeted did not treat its animals cruelly. They used concealed body cameras and static cameras to collect evidence, so we saw everything in glorious fuzzorama. Mary Chipperfield's way of "bonding" with Trudi the chimp.

for instance, was to shout at her, as if she were some obstinately disobedient child, then give her a good kicking. These are wild creatures who have no natural need to bond with people, according to animal behaviourist Sam Scott, so she suspected it all has to be done by fear. Well guessed. I assumed it would be rather difficult for anything as small and puny as a

human being to intimidate an

elephant. Wrong. If you whack its

backside hard enough with a hooked iron bar, it will do what

worker Steven Gills, after doing just this to a victim called Tembo. Gills also swears a lot and, even though the animals don't speak English, I expect they get the gist. fter an elephant, a camel is A doddle. A few good cracks with a big stick and the most recalcitrant Bactrian will

do your bidding. Even a lion can

er, you should smash it on the jaw.

"I caught him nice," hoasted circus

be persuaded to move cages if you bash it in the mouth with a tent pole. Just don't get io there with it. The violence was only the more lurid part of this story. Inadequate veterinary care, cages so cramped the animals became neurooic, elephants tethered or shackled for 23 hours at a stretch, ogers left in waterlogged enclosures in winter. the casual cruelty was breathtaking and all in the name of fun.

One outfit had a lioness injured

by a tiger and not properly treated. When an RSPCA inspector called they hid her behind some bales of sawdust. He missed her, but we didn't. Animal Defenders' efforts have brought a few successful prosecutions, but animal circuses are barely regulated and it is the law that needs to change.

Over on BBC2 it was vampires who were having a hard time, with the return of Buffy The Vampire-Slayer for a second series. Buffy takes the Mary Chipperfield approach to these poor misunderstood creatures, kicking them quite literally to bits and smashing their skeletons with a

This is Karate Kid meets Hammer horror, meets high school dating movie, complete with American teen slang. The cast have names like Charisma Carpenter and Robia La Morte. It was cool for a while but hey, I am just so over it!

BBC1: 6.00am Business Breakfast (19441) 7.00 Breakfast News (1) (55170) 9.00 Kilroy (1) (9190002) 9.45 Style Challenge (1) (8834422) 10.10 The Vanessa Show (1) (9241165) 10.55 News; Weather (T) (9142199) 11.00 Change That (9129248) 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (9122335)

11.55 News; Weather (1) (4342098) 12.00 Going for a Song (6130985) 12.25pm Wipeout (7685070) 12.50 The Weather Show (T) (76029267) 1.00 One O'Clock News (1) (65557) 1.30 Regional News; Weather (58199712)

1.40 Neighbours (T) (16357809)

2.05 Ironside (I) (1245267) 2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (2204422) 3.25 Children's BBC: Smart on the Road (6930354) 3.40 Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch (7143606) 4.00 Rugrats (5925354) 4.15 Get Your Own Back (7415847) 4.35 The Mask (7639151) 5.00 Newsround (5678248) 5.10 Blue Peter (2439847)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (466538) 6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (1) (644) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (996) 7.00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson More from the consumer investigation show (T) (6731)

7.30 Top of the Pops Jamie Theakston Introduces New Radicals, Manah Carey, Phats and Small, Another Level, Catatonia, Reef and Emmem (T) (880)

ALL THE SECTION



Alan Titchmarsh, Charlie Dimmock and Tommy Walsh (8pm)

8.00 Ground Force The learn return to the Milton Keynes garden of Stuart Higham, to check up on his plot 18 months after they built a gazebo which was not entirely lo his liking. Last in series (T) (2151) 8.30 The Builders Tony Kealing and his gang

down tools for a good time in sunny Tenerite (1) (1286) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News;

Weather (1) (9422) 9.30 CHOICE Laughter in the House: The Story of the British Sitcom

Sitcoms from the 1980s and 1990s (3/3) (1) (151354) 10.20 Golf: The US Masters More

second-round action from the Augusta National as the last groups reach the back nine (2556793) 11.30 Kidnapped (1992) Premiere. An FBf

agent is baffled by a cunning serial kidnapper whose knowledge of law enforcement lechniques keeps him one step ahead of the police Directed by Bobby Roth (1) (86809) 1.00am Plan of Attack (1992) Rape victim

Loni Anderson is terrorised by her vengeful attacker following his release from jail. With Anthony John Denison. Directed by Fied Walton (1) (4557855) 2.25 Weather (5776923)

2.30 BBC News 24 (9970010)

BBC2 7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Polka Dot Shorts (5506064) 7.10 The Silver Brumby (9062118) 7.35 Top Cet (8149248) 8.00 The Bots Mester (5462460) 8.25 Buried Treasura (8111460) 8.40 The Really Wild Show (9387847) 9.08 Rewind (3321793) 9.10 (8367647) 305 Newlind (3321793) 3.10 Goober and the Ghos! Chasers (7188248) 9.35 Student Bodies (8836880) 10.00 Teletubbies (42118) 10.30 FILM: Tarka the Otter (64809) 12.00 Wildlife Showcase (24151)

12.30pm Working Lunch (59335) 1.00 Johnson and Friends (38331489) 1.10 The Leisure Hour (8/20) (r) (1933793) 2.10 Racing from Aintree The 2.35 Mumm Meling Chase, 3.10 Mumm Mildmay Novice Chase, 3.45 John Hughes Handicap Chase and 4.20 Belle Epoque Sefton Novice Hurdle (83807460)

4.55 Esther (1) (9416083) 5.30 Whose House? (373)

6.00 The Simpsons The family are burgled, but fortunately Grandpa knows the identity of the thief (r) (T) (403335) 6.20 The Simpsons Bart lands a job as assistant to his idol Krusty the Clown, and even gets (0 say a line in front of the cameras (r) (T) (407151)

6.45 Electric Circus The former EastEnders actress Martine McCutcheon talks about her new single (T) (589489)

7.00 The Night Before the National Preview of tomorrow's Grand National (T) (4373) 7.30 CROICE Walden on Villains New series. Brian Walden re-

evaluates history's miscreants, beginning with Adolf Hitler (T) (422) 8.00 As the Crow Files Janet Street-Porter walks from Nidderdale to south Leeds,

meeting Vic Reeves along the way, as she continues her trek (T) (3903) 8.30 Gardeners' World Gay Search introduces a guide to choosing flowers

and toliage (8/30) (T) (9828)

9.00 Gotf: The US Masters Sleve Rider presents live second-round coverage from the pine-lined fairways of the Augusta National In Georgia (8793) 10.28 Video Nation Shorts (T) (584335) 10.30 Newsnight (T) (184002)



Historical drama starring Nick Note and Greta Scacehi (11.15pm)

Nick Notice stars as the future President of 11.15 Jefferson in Paris (1995) Premiere tha USA in a chronicle of his time as American Ambassador to France. With Gwyneth Paltrow and Greta Scaochi Directed by James Ivory (1) (69760335) 1.30am The Spiral Staircase (1945) psychopath begins a reign of terror in turn-of-the-century New England, murdering girls suffering from a slight handicap. Classic thriller, starring Dorothy McGuire. Directed by Robert

2.50 Weather (1144359) 2.55 Close 3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Bitesize Revision: French 2 (27958) 5.00 Close

Slodmak (T) (7638300)

HTY 5.30am ITV Morning News (55731) 6.00 GMTV (2033712)

9.25 CITV: Tiny Toons (7103557) 9.50 The Fantastic Voyages of Sinbad the Sallor (7129538) 10.15 Bugs Bunny (7474151) 10.25 ITV News Headlines (1) (2219354)

10.30 Funny Farm (1988) Cornedy, starring Chevy Chase as a New York sports writer who moves to the country. Directed by George Roy Hill (1) (49393151)

12.15pm HTV News (1) (7256335)

12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (1) (2887489) 12.55 WEST: Getaways (r) (T) (1946267) 12.55 WALES: Stepping the World Richard Hall explores Mexico City (r) (1946267)

1.30 Lie Detector (T) (16346793) 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5204151) 2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2200606) 3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5901002)

3.15 HTV News (T) (5900373) 3.20 CITV: Mopetop's Shop (5998538) 3.30 Timbuctoo (4274731) 3.35 Animal Stories (4273002) 3.40 Giggly Bitz((7161002) 4.00 Pump it Up (335) 4.30 Mystic Knights of Tir Na Nog (847) 5.00 Lie Detector (r) (T) (8335)

5.30 WEST; Sportsweek (199) 5.30 WALES: Quiz Challenge (T) (199) 5,58 HTV Weather (400426) 6.00 HTV News (T) (712) 6.26 HTV Crimestoppers (661422) 6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (444) 7.00 Emmerdale (T) (8199)



Leanne (Jane Danson) is admitted

7.30 Coronation Street Leanne books into the clinic (1) (248) 8.00 Parking Wars The stress involved in finding parking spaces (3/6) (1) (7847) 8.30 Motorway Life Police finally catch up with a trucker who has been driving an

abnormally large load (1) (6354) 9.00 CHOICE Beware: Shoplifters at Work New series. Crooks reveal tricks and scams (T) (6064)

10.00 Tarrant on TV The wacky world of global television (r) (29606) 10.30 Pleasure Island A couple of Manchester

lads arrive in Jamaica looking for a holiday fling (4/6) (T) (38354) 11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (126118) 11.20 HTV News and Weather (1) (734286)

11.35 Wonderful You Clare has a change of heart over Marshall (5/7) (r) (1) (306422) 12.35am WEST: ITV at the Belfort Festival Highlights tr) (6631381) 12.35am WALES: Wa Can Work It Out

Consumer reports (2345861) 1.05 WALES: Public Morals (r) (1516958) 1.35 Club@vision Dance scene (6766132) 2.15 The Haunted Fishtank (r) (67720) 2.45 Short Story Cinema (r) (1245923) 3.25 Trisha (r) (T) (2370316) 4.25 Soundtrax (r) [72887294] 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (25159768)

5.00 Coronation Street (r) (1) (17768)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: 12.20-12.30pm · Central (9474064)

12.55 Lie Detector (2855880) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4036996) 2.10-2.40 Wish You Were Here? (89009267) 3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (5900373) 5.30 Surprise Gardeners (199)

6.00-6.30 Central News at Six; Weather 11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (282737) 11.30 Late Tackle (93538) 12.30am FILM: With Hostile Intent (259942)

2.15 Club@vision (7063855) 3.00 Box Office America (82984497) 3.25 The Haunted Fishtank (82069132) 3.50 Central Jobfinder '99 (6501381) 5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9638478)

EX I WEST COUNTRY LE

As HTV West except: 12.15pm Westcountry (7256335) (9482083) 12.27-12.30 Westcountry Lunchtime Live; Weather (1) Westcountry Lunchtime Live; Weather (1) (2855890) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (7) (4036996) 2.10-2.40 Lie Detector (1) (89009267) 3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (1) (5900373) 4.59-5.00 Birthday People (6643686) 5.30 Westcountry Weekend (1) (199) 6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live: Weather (1) (712) 11.20-11.30 Live: Weather (T) (712) 11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (282737) 11.30-1.35 FILM: The Couch Trip (69164977)

As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian

AS HIV West except: 12.1spm-12.30 Meridian News; Weether (7256335) 12.55-1.30 Shortland Street (1946267) 5.30 Streetwise (199) 6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight (T) (712) 7.29-7.30 Meridian Weether (714373) 11.20-11.35 Meridian News; Weather (T) (734286) 5.00am-5.30 Freescreen (T) (17768) ANGLIA

Watch (9494828) 12.15-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (7256335) 12.55-1.30 Shortland Street (1946267) 5.30-6.00 Off the Beater Track (10/10) (T) (199) 6.00-6.30 Anglia News (T) (712) 11.19 Anglia Air Watch (602248) 11.20-11.35 Anglia News and Weather (T)

S4C Starts: 5.55am Sesame Street (r) (28169083) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (69036847) 9.00 The Bigger Breakfast (T) (92349538) 9.05 Saved ne Bell (T) (92196354) 9.30 Sam and Max (93497489) 10.00 Eerie Indiana: The Other Dimension (T) (83258557) 10.30 CatDog (T) (39048557) 10.45 Boy Meets World (7) (78076719) 11.15 Moesha (7) (85721642) 11.45 The Bigger Breakfa 12.00 Dawson'a Creek (1) (93470712) 1.00pm Planed Plant (1) (69006606) 1.30 The Three Stooges (r) (1) (98760199) 1.50 FILM:
The Big Trees (1) (95338557) 3.30
Collectors' Lot (1) (99412460) 4.00
Fifteen-to-One (1) (99408267) 4.30 Ricki
Lake (1) (99497151) 5.00 Planed Plant (41879064) 5.30 Countdown (T) (99411731) 6.00 Ne wyddion 6 (1) (49945151) 6.10 Heno (T) (65151373) 6.50 Pobol y Cwm (T) (84301248) 7.20 Y Clwb Rygbi (T) (23884538) 9.15 Newyddion (1) (94013462) 9.45 Ramsay'e Boiling Point (4/5) (1) (95463903) 10.15 Brookside (1) (51266847) 10.50 Frasier (1) (81224083) 11.20 So Graham Norton (1) (8) (8/23151) 12.00 TFI Friday (43665923) 1.05am 4 Later; Puip (81301942) 1.25 Flava (89535720) 1.50 The Mod Squad (18757300) 2.50 Vids (r) (93491687) 3.20 FiLM: Howling VI: Tha Freaks (1) (30558565) 5.15 Diwedd

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (5139151) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (48880) 9.00 The Bigger Breakfast (T) (3357118) 9.05 Saved By the Bell (r) (7181335)

9.30 Sam and Max (r) (73915) 10.00 Earle, Indiana: The Other Dimension

10.30 CatDog (3124064) 10.45 Boy Meets World (576083) 11.15 Moesha (r) (573996) 11.45 The Bigger Breakfast (2473712) 12.00 Sesame Street (I) (59847)

12.30pm Bewitched (T) (77731)

12.30pm Sewitched (1) (77731)
1.00 Pet Rescue Highlights (1) (58267)
1.30 The Three Stooges (1) (16344335)
1.55 Our Man In Marrakesh (1966) A group
of European travellers in Morocco
accidentally get mixed up in espionage.
Starring Tony Randall and Herbert Lom.
Directed by Don Sharp (1) (21792002) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (1) (170) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (977)

4.30 Countdown (T) (7663118) 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (9401151) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (441)

6.00 TFI Friday With Gail Porter, Elvis Costello and Cerys from Catatonia. Plus, music by Ben Folds Five, Electronic and Suede (52422) 7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (951828)

7.50 Dovetales How the Good Friday peace agreement has affected the workload of lawyer Eugene Grant, QC. Lasi in series (8/8) (T) (573248)

8.00 Trading Up Car-swapping game show (4/8) (T) (5489) 8,30 Brookside Lindsey comes face to tace with her past (T) (4996)

9.00 Friends Rachel gets it logether with her former fiancé (r) (T) (5460)



Fiona Allen, Doon Mackichan and Sally Phillips star (9.30pm)

9.30 Smack the Pony Offbeat sketch show (3/7) (1) (64267)

CROICE Frasler Three stories (T) (27248) 10.30 So Graham Norton Irreverent comedy

with the camp funnyman (432151) 11.05 King of the Hill (r) (1) (217064) 11.40 TFI Friday Shown earlier (r) (889915) 12.50am 4 Later Introduction; Pulp (2930403) 1.05 Flava The black music scene (3714039) 1.40 Tha Mod Squad (3896687)

2.40 Vids Officeat video review (r) (5861045) 3.10 Howling VI: The Freaks (1991) Wandering werewolf Brendan Hughes is taken in by evil carnival owner Bruce Martyn Payne, a bloodthirsty vampire Offbeat horror, with Anjonio Fargas Directed by Hope Perello (T) (488229)

4.50 Strays Officeat drama about a former prostitute whose past comes to light. With Rinnan Hendersen (r) (42410687) 5.15 Animal Hester Schofield's low-budget film about a woman searching for Mr

CHANNEL 5 6.00am 5 News and Sport (5994373) 7.00 WideWorld Part six. The life and work of Isaac Newton (r) (1) (2851489)

7.30 Milkshake! (2649847) 7.35 Dappledown Farm (r) (4063460) 8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (r) (8843793) 8.30 Witchworld: 5 News Update (8842064)

9.00 Nancy Lam (r) (T) (8866644) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (r) (6863441) 10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (4256915) 11.10 Leeza (r) (3911880) 12.00 5 News at Noon (1) (8846880)

12.30pm Family Affairs Gabby receives a hefty credit-card bill (r) (T): 5 News Update (7532539) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful James

urges Taylor to talk (T) (2843460) 1.30 The Roseanne Show (2487480) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (2154977) 2.30 Good Afternoon Daity entertainment; 5 News Update (8747847) 3.30 My First Love (TVM 1988) Bea Arthur

stars in this romantic cornedy as a driving instructor who rekindles a iomance with her high school sweetheart. Directed by Gilbert Cates (2914335) 5.20 5 News (59271489)

5.25 Russell Grant's Postcarda (59263460) 5.30 100 Per Cent (6141644) 6.00 5 News and Sport; Weather Round-up of the day's stories (1) (6148557)

6.30 Family Affairs Maggie returns Benji's gift (T); 5 News Update (6139809) 7.00 Knight Rider (r) (2158793)

7.30 Animal Marvels Profile of the cockroach (T); 5 News Update (6128793) 8.00 Was It Good for You? A fireman and his

fiancée embark on a tour of Lanzarote nightclubs, while a university vice-principal and his partner investigate the country from a more cultural standpoint (12/14) (2167441) 8.30 Nick's Quest Nick Baker discovers how

elephants in Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park are evolving. Last in senses (8/8) (T): 5 News Update (2153248) 9.00 Between Love and Hate (1993) Drama

work as a swimming instructor at an exclusive country club while on vacation, and becomes besolfed with the wealthy mother of one of his pupils. Susan Lucci and Patrick Von Horn star. Directed by Rod Hardy (T) (49291915) 10.50 Lexx: The Dark Zone Stories Stan and

the gang arrive on Brunnis (i) (3804248) 11.50 Electra (TVM 1995) Tongue-in-cheek horror about a deranged woman who resolves to be impregnated by her superhuman slepson. With Shannon Tweed. Julian Grant directs (7124002)

1.30am The Homecoming (1973) Adaptation abon of Harold Pinter's play, starring Michael Jayston as a man who takes his wife to meet his long-lost father and brothers. With lan Holm, Directed by Peter Hall (99161756)

3.35 Rag Dott (1962) Kitchen-sink drama about a teenage girl who heads for the bright lights of Soho Jess Conrad and Christina Grego star, Directed by Lance Comfort (40422586)

4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H The explosion leaves Ann in shock (4045571) 5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6865923)

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SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

• For further listings see Saturday's Vision SKY ONE 7.00am Count Duckula |40806) 7.00

7700am (87793) 9,00 Earthworm Jim (72712) 8,30 Godzile (71083) 9,00 Pokemon (62395) 8,30 The Simpsons (21557) 10,00 Shadow Readers (60598) 10,30 Xena Warrer Princess (68373) 11,30 10.30 Xena Warmor Princess (68373) 11.30 Legend of the Hidden City (23460) 12.00 Iarzen. The Epic Adventures (2918) 1.00pm Mad About You (90147) 1.30 Jeopardy (71034) 2.00 Salty Jessy Raphaet (61267) 3.00 Jerny Jones (99408) 4.00 Poternon (8847) 4.30 Shadow Raders 17731) S.00 Star Tiek, Voyager (1064) 6.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (5996) 6.30 French (2014) 2.80 The Semponts (7793) Finends (6248) 7.00 The Simpsons (2793) 7.30 The Simpsons (8460) 8.00 The Simpsons (1441) 8.30 The Simpsons (7248) 9.00 Wor o's Scaresi Police Sings (4444) 10.00 Cops (83828) 10.30 Cops (69249) 11.00 Friends (14712) 11.30 Star Trek. Voyager (60609) 12.30am Law and Order (54316) 1.30 Long Play (4621381) SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie of Sky BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) The Devil's Advocate (1997) Skit BOY OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) The Rainmeker (1998) Skit 904 OFFICE 5 (Transponder 59) knastasia (1997) Sphere (1997) Shir BCX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)

hunt (1997) SKY PREMIER 8.00am Clubhouse Detectives (1996) 20354: 6.00 Warriors of Virtus (1997) 63-25, 10.00 Family Plan (1997) (2)511) 12.00 Kiss Me Goodbye (1982) (66712) 12.00 Kiss Me Goodbye (1982) 2.00pm Clubhouse Detectives (1996) 36422 4.00 Werriors of Virus (1997) 45.59 6.00 Family Plan (1997) (5628) 8.00 Independence Day the Past 3757353 10.20 Ghosts from the Past (1996) (22366847) 12.35cm The Garden Ol Redemption (1997) (248316) 2.15 Two ol Redemption (1997) (2:35am The Garden ol Redemption (1997) (2:93)(6) 2:15 Two Days in the Valley (1996) (2:91855) 4.00 The Last Supper (1996) (81958)

(65083) 11.00 The End of the Golden Weather (1991) (32977) 1.00 The Suthercream Cang (1992) (76199) 3.00 Cab to Canada (1999) (6462) 5.00 The End of the Golden Weather (1991) End of the Golden Weether (1991) (81460) 7.00 P. Review (612441) 7.20 How to Get Ahead in Fain Directors (480915) 9.00 UK Top 10 (3809) 8.30 Joe's Apartment (1996) (25783) 10.00 The The That Blads (1995) (534354) 11.45 Scream (1996) (666712) 1.35cm The Cable (Guy (1996) (891942) 3.10 Home Invasion (1997) (4411315) 4.40 Inside Out (1975) (75318315)

SKY CINEMA 4.00pm Our Relations (1936) (7456441) 9.00 Tarzan's New York Adventure (1942) |8001462) 6.00 Breezy (1973) (9556557) 10.00 A Guide for the Married (9556557) 10.00 A Califor for the Mainted Man (1967) (2773743) 11.25 From the Terrace (1960) (14771625) 2.05am Computation (1959) (7305774) 3.50 Destination Gobi (1953) (35256126) FILMFOUR

6.00pm Short Films (8596606) 8.00 Tin Men (1967) (8591151) 10.00 LA Men (1987) (8591131) 10000 11.45 Takadown (TVM 1989) (8644915) 11.45 Thieves Like Us (1674) (7204373) 1.45em Even Cowgiris Get the Slues (1993) (4911590) 3.20 The Ballad of Little Jo (1993) (63153519) 8.00 Close

8.00pm WCW Nitro (65737557) 11.35 WCW Thunder (42564731) 1.30em Take the High Ground (1953) (82548584) 3.15 The Walking Stick (1970) (70357565) SKY SPORTS 1

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00mm Aerobics Oz Style 7.30 Sports Centre 7.45 Racing News 8.15 Motor Racing 8.45 Sports Centre 0.00 The Fugby Cub 16.00 Motor Racing 10.30 Trans World Sport 11.30 What a Weekend 12.00 Live International Cricket 8,00pm Live Shooker 11.00 Moto-Plus 11.30 Extreme Seling 12.00 Fnday Night Football 1.30 Extreme Seling 12.00 Fnday Night Football 1.30am Hold the Back Page 2.30 Sports Centre 3.30 Moto-Plus 4.00 Super League 5.00 Watersports World

SKY SPORTS 3 10,00em Live Snooker 5.00 World Sport Special 5.30 Moto-Plus 6.00 Extreme Saling 6.30 Insafe the Senior PGA Tour 7.00 Live Friday Night Football 10,00 World Wrestling Federation Rew 12,00 Close EUROSPORT

7.30em Football 8.00 Football 19.30 Racing Line 11.00 Live Cycling 12.00 Live Ternis 4.00pm Live Cycling 5.30 Live Dwing 7.00 Football 8.00 Boxing 16.00 Curling 12.00 Trial Bilong 12.30em Close UK GOLD 7.00em Crossroads 7.30 Neighbours 7.55 EastEnders 8.30 The Bill 9.00 The Bill 9.30 The House of Eliot 10.30 Phoda 11.00 Dallas 11.55 Neighbours 12.25pm EastEnders 1.00 Bugs 2.00 Dallas 2.55 The Bill 3.25 The Bill 3.55 EastEnders 4.30 Phoda 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small 6.00 Dynasty 7.00 Ever Decreasing Catales 7.40 Last of the Summer Wine 8.20 Dad's Army 9.00 The Thin Blue Line 9.40 Specially Selected Canned Carrott 10.40 Publy Wes

Meets Imelda Marcos 11.40 The Bill

12.10am The Bit 12.40 Octor Who Omnibus War Machines 2.15 Best of the Old Grey Whistie Test 3.00 Shopping with

GRANADA PLUS 8.00em Wish Me Luck 7.00 How's Your Father? 7.30 The Odd Couple 6.00 Families 8.30 Mind Your Language 9.05 Casso Coronation Street 9.30 Emmerdale Parm 10.00 Upstairs. Downstairs 11.00 Charle's Angels 12.00 Classic Coronation Street 12.30pm Emmerdale Farm 1.00 Mind Your Language 1.30 Me and My Gin 2.00 Upstairs, Downstairs 3.00 The Love Rear 4.00 The Professionals 5.00 Citarie's

Skeet Ulrich, Jamie Kennedy and Matthew Lillard star in Wes Craven's comic horror movie Scream (Sky MovieMax, 11.45pm)

6,00 The Berny Hil Show 9,00 The Sweeney 18,00 Hale and Pace 10,30 The Comedians 11,00 Men and Motors CARLTON SELECT

DISNEY CHANNEL

5.00pm What's Cooking? 5.30 Gridlack 6.00 My Two Wives 8.30 Our House 7.00 Shrip on Harvey Moon 8.00 Blue Heelers 9.00 Frank Stubbs Promotes 10.00 The Good Sex Guide 10.30 The Screen 11.00 Hill Storer Blues 12.00 My Two Wives 12.30mm Fil.M: The Lian's Club (1994)

6.00am Gummi Bears 6.25 Classic Toons 6.35 Tale Spin 7.00 Classic Toons 7.10 Auddin 7.35 101 Dalmatans 6.00 Goot 1:000 8.25 Classic Toons 6.30 Timon and

Pumbes 9,00 Ari Attack 9,35 Doug 10,00 Recess 10,15 Pepper Ann 10,30 Necls New: 11,00 Smart Guy 11,30 Teen Angel

12.00 Boy Meets World 12.30pm Brothery Love 1.00 Dinosaurs 1.30 Amazing Aronals 1.55 New Adventures of Winne the Poon

Poch 8.00 The Little Mermaid 3.30 Art Attack 4.00 101 Dalmetiens 4.30 Hercules: The TV Show 6.00 Recess 5.15 Pepper Arm 5.30 Smart Guy 6.00 Teen Angel 5.30 Boy Maets World 7.00 FILM: Aladdin and the King of Thieves (1995) 8.20 Honey Strunk the Kids: The TV Show 9.0 Dinosaurs 10.00 Home Improvement 16.30 The Wonder Years 11.00 Touched by An Angel 11.50 Classic Toons 12.00 Clase FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Masked Rider 8.30 Beetleborgs Metalix 6.55 Power Rangers Turbo 7.20 Power Rangers Turbo 7.45 Silver Surfer 8.10 Montal Kombat 9.35 Movigit. The New Adventures of Jungle Book 9.00 Goosebumps 9.25 Eers, Indiana. The Other Dimension 9.50 Oggy and the Cockrosches 16.00 Goosebumps 10.25 Metal Inches 16.00 In 80 The Space Files. Mad Jack the Prais 10.48 The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs 10.50 Oggy and the Cockroaches 11.00 Goosebumps 11.25 Dennis and Gnasher 11.50 Oggy and the Cockroaches 12.00 Goosebumps

1.25 Fariassur Co. Codrosches 2.00 Gooseburrys 2.25 X-Men 2.50 Oggy and the Codrosches 6.00 Gooseburrys 3.39 X-Press 3.35 Spiderman 4.00 Gooseburrys 4.25 Hero Turties: The Nerd Mutation 5.00 Dennis and Grasher 5.00 Ace Ventura 6.00 Donkey Kong Country 6.30 EakStravaganza 6.55 Oggy and the Cockroaches 7,00 Close NICKELODEON 6.00am Brothers Flub 6.30 Brothers Flub

6.00am Brothers Flub 6.30 Biothers Flub 7.00 Againhi Real Monsters 7.30 Againhi Real Monsters 8.00 Catdog 8.30 Catdog 9.00 Rugrats 9.30 Rugrats 16.00 The Wild Thomberrys 10.30 The Wild Thomberrys 11.00 Sabrna the Teenage Witch 11.30 Sabrna the Teenage Witch 12.00 Mocesha 12.30 pea Moesha 1.00 Renford Rejects 1.30 Renford Rejects 2.00 Hey Arrold 2.30 Unit Amelia 6.00 Revorse 2.30 Revorse 1.30 Renford Rejects Hey Ampld 6.00 Rugrats 3.30 Rugrats 4.00. Rugrats 4.30 Sister Seter 5.00 Sabrina the Yeenage Witch 7.00 Close

8 00mm Martial Law 9.00 Cores 9.30 The Late Lounge 10.00 Extreme Champonship Wresting 10.30 Erotic Confessions 11.00 FELM: The Thomas Crown Affair (1969) 1,00em Erotic Confessions 1.30 The Late Lounge 2.00 Martial Law 3.00 FILM: Monkey Stainer: An Experiment in Fear (1988) 5.00 Extreme Championship Wrestling 5.30 Cops 9.00 Close PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless 7.30 Caroline in the City

7.00pm Cubess 7.10 Calone in the City 8.00 Med About You 8.30 Spin City 0.00 Drop the Dead Donkey 8.30 Whose Line Is It Anyway? 16.00 FILM: Aliptane (1880) 11.00 Police Squed 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman 1.00tm Geny Shanding's Show 1.30 Nurses 2.00 Atmost Perfect 2.30 The cell Files 8.00 Merch and Microb 2.31 Tibs and Fibs 3.00 Mork and Mindy 3.30

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL SATELLITE: 8000-MICNIGHT ONLY 7.30am Bloomberg Information Television
0.00 Sigtungs 9.00 Battlester Galachica
10.00 The Sx Million Dollar Man 11.00 Dark
Shadows 11.30 Dark Shadows 12.00 The
Ray Bradoury Theatre 12.30pm The
Twinght Zone 1.00 Tales of the Unexpected Twight Zone 1.00 hates us are unexposed 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected 2.00 Amazing Stones 2.30 Mysteres, Magic and the same 9.66 Berthertes Calarines 4.60 The

Bradioury Theatre 6.30 New Attred. Hitchcock 7.00 The So Million Dollar Man Hitchcock 7.00 The Sv Million Dollar Man 8.00 Amazing Stones 8.30 Highlander. The Raven 9.30 The Hunger 10.00 FILM: Scienner Cop It: Volkin's Rivvenge (1995) 11.45 Sci-Focus Special 12.00 Fil.M: Heavy Metal (1981) 1.45am Sci-Focus Special 2.30 100 Years of Horror 6.00 Carl. Shadows 3.30 Dark Shadows 4.00 Ches. 4.00 Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Smply Painting 6.30 Instant Gardens 7.00 Potted History with Amony Henn 7.30 The Restoration Game 6.00 Australia's Surangest Home Improvements 8.30 The Close Guide 8.00 The Joy of Painting 0.30 Grow for k 10.00 Instanting ardens 16.30 Antiques Trail 11.00 Hooked on Fishing with Paul Young 11.25 The Home and Leasure House 11.30 Total Fishing with Matt Heyes 12.00 These Four Walls 12.30pm Our House Down Under 1.00 The Furniture Guys 1.30 Home Savvy 2.00 New Yankee Workshop 2.30 Home 2.00 New Yankee Workshop 2.30 Home Again with Bob Via 6.00 This Old House with Sieve and Norm 3.30 Two's Country DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rev Hurt Fishing Adventures 4.30
The Diceman 5.00 Bect of British 9.00
Wildite SQS 5.30 Untamed Arrazonia 7.00
Flightine 0.00 Deadly Reptiles 9.00 Animal
Weapons Chemics Warfare 10.00 Animal
Weapons. Armed to the Teeth 11.00 Animal Weapons Fatal Encounters 12.00 Sky Truckers 1.00em Flightine 1.30 The Diceman 2.00 Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00am Hollywood Salari 1.00pm Croco-die Hunter 1.30 Twested Tales. Crocodie 2.00 Crocodie Hunter 2.30 Crocodie Hunter 3.00 Crocodie Hunter 3.00 Crocodia Humer 4.00 Hunters. Dewn of the Dragons 5.00 River Dinosaur 6.00 Croco-die Hunter 6.30 Crocodie Hunter 7.00 Crocodie Hunter 7.30 Crocodie Hunter 8.00 Crocodile Hunter 9.00 Wild, Wild Rep dile Hunter 11.00 Wild Guide 12.00 Close NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7,00pm Chami and Ana the Elephani 7.30 Sea Lon Summer 8.00 The Shark Files: Shark Attack Files 9.00 Insectia: Inverte-brate Inventors 9.30 The Eagle and the Shake 10.00 The Golden Doo 11.00 LicheHISTORY

4.00pm Secrets of War Acrea — Behind the Bamboo Curtain 5.00 Minorana 4.00pm Secrets of War Norea —germon the Bamboo Cuttain 5.00 Monatematal Statues 8.00 The Grand Inquestor A Wigh-Humt. In the Name of Sod 7.00 Playback Kan Livingstone 7.30 Bomb to the Beatles: I, Witness — Teenagers CARLTON FOOD 9,00mm Food Network Daily 9.30 Coxon's Kitchen College 10.00 Tumer's Tour of Hong kong 10.30 Nency Lam's Wok Wiz 11.00 Wonal Thompson Cooks 11.30 Ideal

Home Cooks 12.00 Food Net

" the second

Home Cooks 12.00 Food network Daily 12.30pm French Lunch 1.00 Coxon's Kinchen College 1.30 Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Pawour 2.00 Can't Stand the Heat 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Food Factory 3.30 Ideal Home Cooks 4.00 A Year at Ballymaloe 4.30 Tessa's Tastebuds 5.00 Close LIVING 6.00em Can'i Cook, Won'i Cook 6.30 Animal Rescue 7.00 Professor Bubble 7.25 Callou 7.30 Police Dot Shorts 7.55 Practical Callou 7-38 Polici Dot Shors 7-55 Pratical Parenting 8.00 Barney and Friends 8.25 Babalobs 8.30 Tiny Tales 8.35 Tiny and Crew 8.50 Practical Parenting 9.00 Specel Babies 9.30 Home and Away 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show 10.50 Maury Powich 11.40 The Heat is On 12.10pm Through the Keyhole 12.40 Rescue 911 1.10 Beyond Bellel Fact or Fiction 1.40 Maury Powich 2.30 Special Babies 3.00 The Jerry Springer Show 3.50 Michael Cole 4.40 Home and Away \$.10 Through the Keyhole Home and Away 5,10 Through the Keyhok 5.40 Can'i Cook, Won'i Cook 6.15 The Jerry Springer Show 7.05 Rescue 911 7.35 Animal Rescue 8.00 Entertainment Now

8.10 Maury Povich 9.00 Fit.M: Kansas (1995) 11.00 Sextasyl 12.00 Close

ZEE TY 5.30em Guldaste 0.00 Sony Meri Loro 5.30em Guidasta 0.00 Sorry Meri Lorry 6.30 Mast Must Show 7.00 Faith 7.30 News 8.00 Must Mag 8.30 Tara 2 9.00 Adhuar 16.00 Yehi Zindagi 11.00 Zaive Ka Saler 11.00 Shanjah Cup 1999 AM India v Pakistan 3.00pm in's My Choice 3.30 Sharjah Cup 1999 AM India v Pakistan 7.30 Entertainment Express 6.00 News 8.30 Aashiwad 9.30 FILMt Hindi Movie: **RACING 46, 47**

Henderson putting his faith in nothing but the facts

SPORT

MOTOR RACING 47

Barrichello homing in on winning formula in Brazil



FRIDAY APRIL 9 1999

Confident Montgomerie makes encouraging start to 63rd Masters

Lyle puts troubles behind him with fluent 71

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THERE is a Valhalla in gotf in the United States, a place where ghosts of the past suddenly come to life, it is known as Augusta, Georgia, where yesterday Sandy Lyle rediscov-ered the form that he has not known for years.

ti was extraordinary to watch the way that Lyle, walking with that heavy-feoted stride of his, a towel around his neck to ward off the heat and cope with the oppressive humidity, managed to get round in 71, one under par,

and be up with the leaders.

These days, indeed these past few years, the game has been so troublesome for Lyle that there have been many occasions when one has wondered why he has continued. A resident of Jacksonville, Florida, he makes occasional forays to Europe, but wherever he goes he seems to be a slightly fortorn figure. Until vesterday, that is, because in his best opening round here since 1988. the year he won. Lyle looked at times as he did of old.

Around him the ghosts were flitting to and fro. John Daly was one of the early leaders before finishing with a 72 and Jose Maria Olazábal, the champion in 1994, proved how these famous green acres can bring back memories that can be inspirational. A 70 for him put him one behind the early leader. Brandel Chamblee. who was three under par, as



Lynne Trus Early scores

McCarron. Tiger Woods, the 1997 champion, however, took an eight at the par-five 8th hole and turned in 38, two over par.

Colin Montgomerie, Lyle's fellow Scot, whose public posture before the start of the 63rd Masters was one of bemusement mixed with depression, gave himself the sort of start he was desperate for making only one mistake and finishing, like Olazábal, with a 70.

Lyle's troubles seemed to have increased when, on Monday, word reached him and his wife, Jolande, that their nanny and two children had been involved in a car crash in Florida. Mercifully it was not too serious.

Lyle was plugged in a bun-ker on the 4th for the first of his two bogeys, but then sank a 12-foot putt for a birdle on the 5th and somehow coaxed in a curling 12-footer on the 7th. Although he missed the were Davis Love III and Scott green on the 9th, he played a



Montgomerie, who got the start that he wanted with a first-round 70, two under par, plays his approach to the 2nd green at Augusta yesterday

magnificent wedge from the fringe of the green to within an inch of the hole to turn in 35. After all this, he looked less like the forgotten man of Europe. But after a good outward nine he still had a fight on his hands.

The 12th, perhaps the most difficult short hole in golf, caught him out when his teeshot trickled through the green, but any bad luck he might have had on this hole was given back on the next. when his ball did not roll back down the bank into Rae's

It took a good putt of ten feet or so from the fringe of the green for him to get his par on the 16th and his chip from the back of the 17th popped into the hole and came out again. It was a Lyle the likes of which has not been seen for a long time who made his way up the 18th, where his drive ended near where it had in 1988. He then hit a magnificent fiveiron to a flag that was positioned on the back right-hand corner of the green. In a mood such as he was in he was always likely to hole the ensuing five-footer, and so he did.

Montgomerie might have been even happier than Lyle, but you would not have known it from his demeanour at the end. It had been a round in which he had made only one mistake, when he took three putts on the 6th. It was, he said, exactly the start he had been looking for. "The man who wins this will be the one who makes the least mistakes, not the one who gets the most birdies," he said. "The course is only going to get tougher and tougher. I am a bit more confident than I've been in the past. The width of

rough means more than they did before."

There is increasing evidence that he is coming to terms with a course that has beaten him in the past - or so he has thought. In fact, his eighthplace finish last year was not only his best here, but his best in any of the major championships in 1998, and his last two rounds of 69 and 70 were as well as he has managed at that stage of the tournament.

Such was Montgomerie's determination not to be carried away that he failed even to

had played on the 4th, when, having driven over the back of this tricky par-three, he somehow got the ball close enough to hole for a par. Steve Jones, a playing partner, bowed in mock admiration. A homeward nine of 33 on a day when all competitors were finding the capricious wind making

the course difficult was a score

to send even Montgomerie

happily in for a late lunch.

Ferguson hoping to attract Zidane

By Ouver Holt :: POOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

MANCHESTER United have made the first move in an attempt to secure the services of the player who has driven them to the brink of elimination from the European Cup by inquiring about the availability of Zinedine Zidane.

Zidane, the man who scored Zuane, the man who scored two goals for France against Brazil in the World Cup final last July and was voted the world's best player by Fifa earlier this year, orchestrated the masterly Juventus performance that resulted in a 1-1 draw with United in the Sixt least with United in the first leg of their semi-final on Wednesday

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, has expressed his admiration for the Frenchman many times and it is believed that members of the Old Trafford board met their Juventus counterparts before Wednesday's game to register their interest should the player become available.

It is likely that Zidane will leave the Italian champions at the end of the season, partly be-

United draw comfort.....

cause of his disillusionment about the turn events in Turin have taken, partly because his wife has become bored of life in the city.

It is thought that Zidane. who was the best player on the pitch on Wednesday night despite the fact that his right knee was heavily strapped and he was clearly not fully fit, would cost United a fee somewhere in the region of £18

Undoubtedly, he would give them the guile and the pres-ence on the ball in the centre of midfield, the ability to dictate the pace of the match, that is the one quality United still conspicuously lack.

Ferguson has aiready joked about moving Old Trafford 10 the seaside to accommodate the wishes of Zidane's wife. who has expressed a preference for bying in a coastal city. and the Frenchman may be more tempted by the lure of a club such as Barcelona.

The suspicion remains, though, that he is the type and the quality of player that United must attract if they are to take the final, elusive step towards being the best club side in Europe.

TIMES

No 1687

ACROSS

7 Stagger: (be left in) trouble (5) 8 Sitting-room (once) (7) 9 Aspirant (eg pop-singer, fitm-

star) (7) 10 Saturn moon; huge, important type (5) 11 A medicine (4)

12 Statue base (8) 15 (Voice) artificially high (8) t6 A fruit; desirable job (4) 19 Check of books (5) 21 Outstanding performance;

Cornwall, for Gloucester (Lear) (7) 22 Serfdom (7)

DOWN i imperfect (6)

23 L S --, industrial-scene artist

2 Peaceful (8) 3 One playing unfairly (5) 4 Salty, knot-shaped biscuit (7)

5 Carbon specks (4) 6 GWR engineer (6) 8 Fit to be seen (11) 13 Speak condescendingly (4,4) 14 Subhuman (7)

15 (Flesh) not firm (6) 17 One dying for beliefs (6) 18 Young female horse (5) 20 Drift of sand (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1686 ACROSS: 1 Stammer 5 Shod 9 Admin 10 Boulder 1] Self-portrait 12 Basics 13 Broody 16 Living fossil 19 Involve 20 Ozone 21 Lido 22 Take/out DOWN: 1 Sway 2 Aimless 3 Munificently 4 Ribbon 6 Hydra 7 Dorothy 8 Culture shock 12 Balliol 14 Orinoco 15 Effect 17 Vivid 18 Seat

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Australia fightback masks burning issues

IT IS the way of cricket these days that West Indies and Australia barely have time to reflect on a Test series that had to be seen to be believed before embarking on an island-hopping excursion around the Caribbean crammed with seven

one-day internationals. As Steve Waugh, clutching the Frank Worrell trophy which he had just managed to hang on to in his first series as Australia's captain, said: "It's hard to put it all into perspective right now. There were so many times when we thought we were going to win a Test and then they thought they were going to win it. I am not really sure why it was so up and down."

Australia had West Indies on the floor in Trinidad, where they collapsed to their lowest Test score of 51, were staggered themselves by two monumental innings from Brian Lara, in Jamaica and Barbados, and then came back to out-point their challengers em-

phatically in Antigua. it was the most compelling cricket, yet when it was all over, neither side was entirely satisfied. Australia, sustained by the steadfast Steve Waugh, lelt that they could have won all four Tests; West Indies, inspired by Lara, believed the momentum he had generated

would keep them ahead. Both now have problems to address for the simple reason that the series was dominated by five great players — Lara, Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh of West Indies, Steve Waugh and Glenn McGrath of Australia - and they cannol FROM PAT GIBSON IN ANTIGUA

continue producing such colossal performances indefinitely. On the one side, Lara scored 546 runs at an average of 90, the indomitable Walsh took 26 wickets and Ambrose 19; on the other. Steve Waugh made 409 runs at 58 and McGrath

took 30 wickets. Behind them, though, are some burning issues, particularly for Australia. Shane Warne has much to consider after being dropped for the final Test: Ian Healy seemed in decline until he roused himself with a brilliant diving catch and a lightning stumping in Antigua: Mark Waugh is beginning to look too laid back for his own good; Matthew Eltion failed as Mark Taylor's replacement as opener.

At least Steve Waugh seems to be coming to terms with the captaincy. At first, the sheer intensity appeared to affect his decision-making, but in the



Lara: growing into role

things right.

"I am the first to admit that I am going to have to learn as a captain," he said. "It was a bit much to expect me to pull all the right strings straight off, but I expect to improve in every game and I think Antigua was the best I've done."

As for Lara, he seems to be growing up at last. He looked like a little boy lost when he was presiding over the shambolic 5-0 whitewash in South Africa, but he lifted not just his team but the entire region with the glory of his batting.

"It was a tremendous team effort," he said generously. "We always knew that it was going to be tough for us playing against the world champi ons in the last Test," he said, "and they proved to be better than us, but I am very optimistic about the future. As time goes on we are going to be a much better unit and a force to be reckoned with once more."

There are going to be significant changes in West Indies cricket as the president of the board, Pat Rousseau, who has been embarrassed by many of the decisions taken by the people around him, assembles a new structure.

The positions of Clive Lloyd, the team manager, and Malcolm Marshall, the coachm. are among those under review, but one man is sure of his tenure. Lara, a perceived delinquent in need of corrective training when he was put on probation for the first two Tests, is now master of all he surveys from his home in the hills above the Caribbean.

England turn to Mather

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND will introduce two newcomers in their search for the grand slam against Wales at Wembley on Sunday, the final day of the Five Nations Championship. Barrie-Jon Mather will join Steve Hanley, his Sale colleague, after the withdrawal through injury yesterday of Jeremy Guscott, England's

longest-serving player. At 6ft 6in and 16st 4lb, Mather. 26, must have a claim to be the biggest back to appear in an England jersey. He played in the second row for England Schools before moving to play rugby league for Wigan in 1991, winning England and Great Britain caps at wing or

With Will Greenwood, of Leicester, and Phil de Glanville, of Bath. long-term casualties. Mather understudied Guscott in training this week before the Bath player conceded that his strained hamstring would not allow him to make his sixtieth appearance for his country.

Mather wins preference

over Nick Beal, the Northampton utility back, who played at centre during the southernhemisphere tour last summer. Tony Underwood, the Newcastle wing, has been added to the replacements.

Mather will be the sixth Sale player to have been capped by Clive Woodward. the England coach, five of them backs.

Code breaker, page 49

Kosovo Emergency

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